Superstition Mountain Express

MOAA Military Officers Association of America

January 2020
Volume 41, Issue 5

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This newsletter is published monthly September - May.

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

Happy New Year to All

It was great to see everyone at the December dinner. As we start the new year it's time to renew your chapter membership. Please take the time to complete the renewal slip on page 11 in this newsletter and send it to the treasurer with your dues check.

The National Defense Authorization Act was passed by both houses of Congress and included the repeal of the Survivor benefit offset requirement. This a true win for the families of service members who have died.

With the resignation of Jim Austin as our Transition Coordinator, we are in need of a member to step forward to assume the position. Jim has done an outstanding job over the years and will be missed.

The new year means an opportunity to do more for the veteran's services we support. We will be needing help from all our members to continue our support of the Auxiliary's projects to help our veterans. Let us know how you would like to help.

Our next board meeting will be on January13th and the dinner meeting will be on January 19th. See you there.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy New Years!

Warmest Regards,

John Bushko

2019 OFFICERS

President, Lt Col John Bushko	**480-759-1717** jabushko@earthlink.net
1st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	**602-283-5862** cw4allen@cox.net
2nd VP, Col John Marsh	**480-2191020 emarsh125@gmail.com**
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	**480- 759-1717** jdbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen	
Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph	
Past President, MG Dave Rataczak	

2019 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs	**CW4 Arlan Allen**
Membership	**Col John Marsh**
ROTC/JROTC	**Capt Ed Mangan**
Personal Affairs	**Lt Gregory Moore**
Legislative	**MG Dave Rataczak**
Newsletter	**Mrs. Marlene Fox**
Website	**Lt. Ann Ferguson**
Transition Coordinator	
Director	**Maj. Austin Foote**
Director	**Mrs. Ann Schminke**
Director	**Capt. George Meegan**
Director	**Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin**
Director	**Col Karl Pfitzer**
Director	**Captain Al Anderer**
CAS Membership	**Maj Norm Poole**

AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. The ladies met in December and the spirit of Christmas was everywhere as we worked on pillows for Hospice of the Valley.

The auxiliary will meet on Friday, January 10th at 11:00 at Dobson Restaurant. We will be filling hygiene kits for the veterans at the Phoenix Veterans Center. Hope to see you there. 480- 759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net

Wishing you and yours a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Judy

Pillows for Hospice of the Valley

Hygiene Kits for the Veterans Center

December Dinner Meeting and Ball

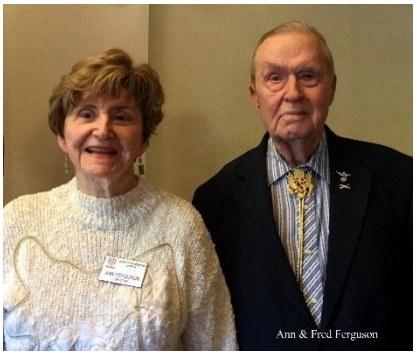
Our evening was very festive, with the ladies in their holiday clothes and the men in their nice suits (some even fit into their military uniforms). Even though the room was not decorated for the holidays, we made our own Christmas cheer, enjoying the time we were spending together! The music by Diane & Jim Richardson was once again awesome and enjoyed by all!

Peggy & Arlan Allen

Marlene & Ed Fox

Mel & Tom Ralph

Jan & Mike Ostermeyer


Ann & Fred Ferguson

David & Lynne Loss

Al Anderer

Gerry Gustafson

JR & Diane Richardson

Rosemary Davis & Austin Foote

Jo & George Meegan

The Installation of our 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

Past President MG Dave Rataczak swears in the 2020 Officers and Board of Directors.

Your 2020 Officers and Board of Directors were sworn in by Past President Dave Rataczak. Most of your 2019 board members agreed to remain for another year. We truly appreciate the time and work they put into making our chapter one of the best in the state!

Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA
Auxiliary Luncheon
at Dobson's Restaurant

January 10, 2020

Lunch at 11:30am
Order lunch off the menu
No reservation needed

Please join us at 11am to work on Hygiene Kits!

Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA

Dinner Meeting January 19, 2020

4:00pm Social – 5:00pm Dinner

Dobson's Restaurant at the golf course
2155 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ

Guest Speaker
Lou Bates E.A., Accounting and Tax Services

Menu choices
Filet of Beef; Chicken Cordon Bleu or Salmon.
All meals include Green Salad, Vegetables, Dinner Rolls, Dessert & Coffee or Tea
$30.00 per person

Reservations by Wednesday January 15th to Arlan Allen
4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019
602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net

Central Arizona Satellite Chapter

Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 25th, 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.

January Congratulations

MEMBER BIRTHDAY	
Lou Bates	1
Dorothy Eberle	20
LeJames Grayson	9
Marie Shadden	24
James Symonds	6
Ray Wilson	19
James Woods	16

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY	
Mary Ann Cerhan	16
Roddy Charlton	2
Jeannine Grayson	2
Vickie Pfitzer	22

ANNIVERSARIES	
Jim & Barbara Austin	1
Fenwick & Linda Burch	14
Ray & June Wilson	23

The only way to live is to accept each minute as an unrepeatable miracle, which is exactly what it is: a miracle and unrepeatable.
-- Margaret Storm Jameson

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

1st Vice President

Arlan Allen- Programs

January – the New Year has started a new decade! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season.

We will be starting off our dinner meetings on January 19th. Social Hour begins at 1600 with dinner at 1700. Meal choices are: Filet of Beef; Chicken Cordon Bleu or Grand Marnier Salmon. Please have your meal choices to me by Wednesday, January 15th. Our guest speaker will be our own Lou Bates, E.A., Accounting & Tax Services. Lou will be discussing changes to the Federal and State tax codes that will be of interest to our membership.

Our February guest speaker will be Col Pat Upah, USA (Ret). Pat is with Honor House and is Chair of the Board of Directors. She will be speaking on the trials and tribulations of Military personnel transitioning to civilian life.

A reminder; We are collecting 2020 Chapter dues…$25.00 for regular members and $12.50 for Surviving Spouse members.

602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net

2nd Vice President

John Marsh - Membership

I appreciate your selecting me to take over the 2nd Vice President-Membership position. My thanks to Al Anderer for his efforts over the past year and for giving me a good introduction into data available to increase our membership.

I would like the membership to help me come up with other avenues to investigate for new members. Thinking back to earlier times in my career as a junior officer, getting together at meet and greet events (like Dog & Suds; monthly Hog Call at the club, etc.) were ways to put people together and join in. We could possibly have smaller events in various local areas of the East Valley attended by some members of SM Chapter inviting potential members to a more informal setting. This is just one idea, but I need your help and your ideas.

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. Thank you again for your confidence. It is not often that the Medics get to lead the Line!

480-219-1020 memarsh125@gmail.com

CAS Membership Spokesperson

Norm Poole

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from Casa Grande! We are looking forward to 2020 and will be continuing our efforts to bring in new members to CAS.

Treasurer

Tom Ralph

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. If you're like me, it will take all of January to recover, but I'd do it all again. Lots of fun.

Just a reminder to those of us who have not yet paid their annual dues, chapter dues are payable on the first of January each year. Thanks to all of you who have paid already for your support of our chapter and we are looking forward to another great year in MOAA.

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

Personal Affairs

Greg Moore

A colleague of mine went on vacation and while he was away his house was ransacked. To make a long story short, his insurance would not pay out because he had blatantly posted pictures on Facebook that showed where he was. Sometimes Facebook shows your destination and then thieves know you are not home.

Apparently, there is something in small print in his insurance policy about posting on social media while you are away. So, we checked ours and yes, it basically says that your insurance is void if you advertise the fact that you are absent from your home. So please be careful what you put out there on social media!

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

Legislative

Dave Rataczak

Taken from MOAA National "Take Action" website December 30, 2019

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today. - **MOAA National Legislative Action items are available to you at http://www.moaa.org/ . Click on 'Take Action' at the top of the page.**

Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine - The readiness and effectiveness of America's armed forces demand a full complement of well-trained medical professionals. But the Defense Department's fiscal 2020 budget would eliminate roughly 20 percent of military medical positions, along with other reorganization measures. This shortsighted "reform" effort could have drastic, even deadly, consequences—on the battlefield and throughout American health care.

Ensure Safe Housing For Military Families - When military families face health threats in their homes, it can be harder for servicemembers to focus on their mission. Congress is considering legislation to address health threats in base housing—by remediating environmental hazards, establishing strong tenants' rights procedures, and restoring proper oversight of construction and maintenance contractors.

Act Now to Help Veteran Caregivers - The Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures (TEAM) for Veteran Caregivers Act improves the veterans caregiver program by ensuring all caregivers are included in the veterans' medical records, establishing a minimum standard of information in downgrade notification letters, and extending benefits for at least 90 days after a termination letter is sent for cases where a veteran is deemed "no longer clinically eligible" for the program.

Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees - Think your health care already costs enough? So do we. But jacking up your TRICARE fees and out-of-pocket costs is on the list of budget options for lawmakers to consider. That would ignore the price military retirees and their families have paid up front with their service and sacrifice.

Support full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees - Act now to support H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. This bill provides full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees, including Chapter 61 retirees.

Protect Gold Star spouses during future shutdowns - Under current law, Gold Star spouses receiving benefits from the Department of Defense are protected from interruptions in payments during a government shutdown. But because Coast Guard paychecks come from the Department of Homeland Security, these survivors are still at risk.

Support concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees - Act now to support the Retired Pay Restoration Act, a bill to provide concurrent receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation.

ROTC/JROTC

Ed Mangan

At our December 15, 2019 monthly dinner meeting we had our annual election of officers and directors. I was nominated for the position of JROTC Chairman. I am taking over the position held by Col Karl Pfitzer for many years. Karl will be contacting all of our JROTC schools to let them know of our change.

So now the next step is to identify those chapter members or spouses who would like to support or present the awards at each school. As you may know, our chapter supports 21 JROTC Programs, plus three ROTC Programs at ASU; the most of any chapter in our state. YES, we need your help. It is still too early to have the exact dates of the awards, but they usually start in April and some will be in May. You don't have to wait you can sign up to support or present at any time. Just let me know your choices.

Starting next month, we will have each JROTC school and the SMC member who will be supporting and/or presenting at each school listed in the newsletter. Thank you for your continued help and support.
Emangan3@aol.com 602-501-0128

Board meetings

The board meets at Dobson Ranch Restaurant in Mesa on the 2nd Monday of each month at 9am. As always, members are cordially invited to attend these meetings. Upcoming meetings: ***January13th, February 10th, and March 9 th.***

Auxiliary Spouses Meetings

The Auxiliary meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 11:30am. January's meeting is on the 10th at Dobson's Restaurant. We will meet at 11:00am to work on Hygiene Kits. Contact Judy Bushko for more information.
480- 759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net

2020 ROTC / JROTC Awards Ceremony Presenters and Sponsors

School & Affiliation	Presenter	Sponsor
ASU; USA, USN, USAF		
Apache Jct, USN		
Basha, USAF		
Campo Verde, USAF		
Casa Grande, USMC		
Chandler, USAF		
Coolidge, USMC		
Desert Ridge, USAF		
Dobson, USAF		
Gilbert, USAF		
Globe, USA		
Hamilton, USAF		
Higley, USAF		
Marcos De Niza, USA		
Maricopa, USAF		
Mesa, USAF		
Queen Creek USA		
Poston Butte USAF		
Red Mountain, USA		
Skyline, USA		
Vista Grande, USMC		
Westwood, USAF		

Last year our members stepped up and sponsored all the high school JROTC units. Hopefully, we can do it again. If you would like to sponsor one of these schools, you'll find a coupon on page 11 of the newsletter. Use it to send your donation to Treasurer, Tom Ralph. You can also donate any amount to help fund this worthy undertaking.

We also need presenters to attend the award ceremonies. If you would like to see the cadets in action, contact Ed Mangan

Emangan3@aol.com 602-501-0128

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

Last Call Blankets for VA Hospital

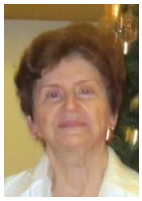
Blankets are used for covering our veterans who have passed in the room and are being moved. They are covered with these blankets and the blanket is then given to the family. Over 50 blankets donated since we started this project.!

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. Hospice of the Valley gives them to their patients family members for comfort.

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.

Our Axillary ladies at work! Always there to help our Veterans.
These ladies are Awesome!

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 at the Veterans Center

January 20th – Martin Luther King Day

"The time is always right to do what is right!"

…..Martin Luther King

Happy New Year !
from your Officers and Board of Directors

Land of the free and home of the brave

Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

The 2020 board was sworn in by MG Dave Rataczak USA Retired and presented to the membership.

Officers

President
LT Col John Bushko
USArmy

1st Vice President
CW4 Arlan Allen
US Army

2nd Vice President
Col John Marsh
US Air Force

Auxiliary
Mrs Judy Bushko
USArmy Spouse

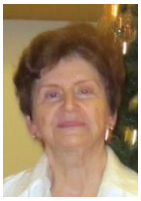
Treasurer
Col Tom Ralph
US Army

Secretary
Mrs Peggy Allen
US Army Spouse

Board of Directors

Legislative
MG Dave Rataczak
US Army

ROTC/JROTC
Capt Ed Mangan
US Air Force



Website
LT Ann Ferguson
US Army

Personal Affairs
Lt Greg Moore
US Army

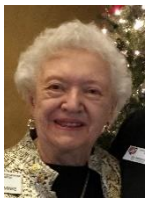
Newsletter Editor
Mrs Marlene Fox
US Air Force Spouse

CAS Membership
Maj Norm Poole
Us Army

Director
Capt George Meegan
US Marines

Director
Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin
US Army

Director
Maj Austin Foote
US Air Force



Director
Mrs Ann Schminke
Auxiliary member

Director
Capt Al Anderer
US Air Force

Director
Col Karl Pfitzer
US Army

Board members that are also Past Presidents are:
Karl Pfitzer, Arlan Allen, Ed Mangan and Dave Rataczak

Our Chapter has won the Five Star Recognition Award for the last 9 years. This doesn't happen by accident. It takes a lot of work, time and dedication. This is your Board. They need your help to make 2020 a great year! If at anytime you have comments or suggestions you think might help our chapter, you can contact any of your board members. The board meets at 9am on the 2nd Monday of each of month, except June, July and August. All members are welcome to come to the board meetings, which are held at Dobson's Restaurant 2155 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ.

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 John Marsh:
480-219-1020 memarsh125@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** or **magnetic**	
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

CLIP AND MAIL

January Dinner Meeting Reservation

Sunday, January 19, 2020 - Dobson's Restaurant
Social Hour 4:00pm Dinner – 5:00pm

Meal Choices: Filet of Beef_____Chicken Cordon Bleu_____ or Salmon _____
$30.00 per meal – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Wednesday, January 15th
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 Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
1151 N Joshua Tree Lane
Gilbert, AZ 85234

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

Chapter Board Meetings	Chapter Auxiliary Luncheons	Chapter Dinner, Luncheon Meetings
January 13th - 9:00am	January 10th – 11:30am	**Sunday January 19th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
February 10th – 9:00am	February 14th – 11:30am	**Sunday February 16th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
March 9th – 9:00am	March 13th – 11:30am	**Sunday March 15th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
April 13th – 9:00am	April 10th – 11:30am	**Sunday April 19th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
May 11th – 9:am	May 8th – 11:30am	**Sunday May 17th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
June – no meeting	June12th – 11:30am	**Sunday June14th** – 12 pm social – 1:00pm Lunch
July – no meeting	July 10th – 11:30am	**Sunday July19th** – 12 pm social – 1:00pm Lunch
August – no meeting	August 14th – 11:30am	**Sunday August 16th** – 12 pm social – 1:00pm Lunch
September 14th – 9:00am	September 11th - 11:30am	**Sunday September 20th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
October 12th – 9:00am	October 9th – 11:30am	**Sunday October 18th** - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
November 9th – 9:00am	November 13th – 11:30	**Sunday November 15th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
December 14th – 9:00	December 11th – 11:00am	**Sunday December 20th** – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner