



Superstition Mountain *Express*

Military Officers Association of America



Summer Bulletin



President's comments

Hello everyone,

As we trudge forward in this unusual time, I hope you are doing everything you can to stay healthy. Not much has changed with the chapter activities. For the present we are curtailing all activities for August and will reevaluate for September during our Board of Director conference call on August 18th. During the last conference call on July 21st, as expected, there was little to discuss due to the COVID 19 status of the state. I recently applied for and the chapter has been approved as a "Be Connected Partner Organization". A key part of the Be Connected program is that each of us can have a role in connecting service members, veterans & their families to needed support and resources. They have training to become a Be Connected Navigator to support service members and veteran communities. Let me know if you are interested in doing the Navigator training and I will send you the information to sign up. The training is conducted as a Zoom meeting on the computer. For more information, their website is beconnectedaz.org.

On a personal note, Judy and I are both well and doing little outside of the house. I have another honey-do activity to paint a bathroom, bedroom, and hallway. Judy keeps busy with her crafts.

As Porky Pig used to say "T-T-T-That's all Folks".

Please do all you can to stay healthy, and I look forward to seeing everyone when we can meet again in person.

John



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2020 OFFICERS

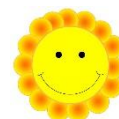
President, LTC John Bushko 480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net
1st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen 602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net
2nd VP, COL John Marsh 480-2191020 emarsh125@gmail.com
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko 480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen
Treasurer, COL Thomas Ralph
Past President,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

2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS & DIRECTORS

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AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



John and I put together 50 hygiene kits and delivered them to the Veterans resource center. We also delivered 9 pillows to Hospice of the Valley.

I spoke with the staff at the resource center and they will accept backpacks, masks, and hygiene kits.

The items needed for the kits are:

- full size bars of soap
- toothbrushes and regular size toothpaste
- razors (disposable)
- full size deodorant
- white socks

I have about 40 wash cloths

I would like to put together some kits sometime in August. If you would like to contribute any of these items', please let me know. You can drop them at my house, or I can pick them up. Currently there are no supplies for the hygiene kits at Dobson Restaurant.

I also took 6 shopping bags of the travel size items to Pat Upah and she was going to distribute them to various organizations that are helping domestic violence victims, female veterans, and homeless veteran families. I told her to let me know when they needed more, and I would spread the word.

I have purchased fabric to make more pillows so we can stuff the next time we meet.

Hopefully, the auxiliary will be able to meet in September. I will keep everyone apprised of this.

Take care and stay safe.

Judy



Legislative
Ritt Schiano



MOAA Legislative Highlights from Various Sources

June 2020 WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., today introduced the TRICARE Prescription Relief Act, legislation that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to waive prescription cost-sharing requirements for military service members, veterans, and their families during a declared national or public health emergency. The proposal would help to reduce the financial burden for TRICARE beneficiaries who are unable to access military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies.

NDAA UPDATE What's In the NDAA So Far? Pay Raise Both the House and Senate versions support a 3.0% pay raise tied to the Employment Cost Index. Halting Cuts to the Military Health System MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill efforts paid off with the inclusion of two provisions in the FY 2021 NDAA HASC Personnel Subcommittee mark that would temporarily halt medical billet cuts and military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring with new reporting requirements. They are: • A review of medical manpower requirements related to homeland defense missions and pandemic response. The bill also would prohibit any realignment or reduction of military medical end strength for one year after the date of enactment of the FY 2021 NDAA and requires an analysis of availability of civilian health care and mitigation planning for any care to be eliminated from MTFs due to medical billet cuts. A requirement to address concerns raised by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the quality and availability of civilian providers. The bill also would prevent DoD from implementing the planned MTF restructuring for one year following a new report.

This is not a done deal, but it marks a positive development as MOAA seeks to halt cuts to military medicine to ensure congressional oversight of DoD's efforts and access to high quality care for beneficiaries at impacted MTFs. It will still take all of us to engage at the right opportunities to shepherd these and other provisions through the amendment process, chamber floor votes, and the

conference committee. Please stay tuned and be ready to call or email your legislators. The executive summary of the SASC markup did not directly address MOAA's Storming the Hill goal of halting MTF restructuring and medical billet cuts.

What Are the Next Steps With the NDAA? Once markups are complete, the HASC and SASC will post the approved language, and a window will open for members to propose amendments to the NDAA. The House and Senate will then appoint conferees to meet and negotiate a final NDAA version that resolves differences in language. At last year's NDAA conference, the widows tax was finally repealed when the conferees voted to waive the budgetary "pay for" rule and fix that longstanding injustice. Although budgetary concerns are greater this year, MOAA will continue to advocate for our community throughout the process. (Brenden McMahon, MOAA's Associate Director, Compensation and Legislation, contributed to this report.)

"Working age" military retirees -- those under age 65 -- who use Tricare Select for their health care will start paying enrollment fees beginning next year, Defense Department officials announced Tuesday. For the first time since the creation of Tricare Standard, now known as Tricare Select, retired beneficiaries who joined the military before 2018 will pay a monthly fee for their health care: \$12.50 for an individual or \$25 for a family.

WASHINGTON -- The Senate approved a bill to grant all veterans with service-connected disabilities free lifetime entry to America's 419 national park sites. The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, which now goes to the House for consideration, amends the current eligibility standards for national park passes. The bill would grant the passes to millions more U.S. veterans. Now, veterans must have a 100% permanent disability to receive free lifetime entry. If approved by the House, the bill would grant a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass to any veteran with a disability rating through the Department of Veterans Affairs. According to a recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.7 million veterans, or

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25% of the total vets in the U.S., had a service-connected disability in 2019. About 2.09 million had a disability rating of 60% or higher, the report shows. It did not specify how many veterans were 100% disabled. For years, veterans and experts have praised experiences in nature as therapy for those suffering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Vietnam Veterans - A bipartisan amendment to the House version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would match the Senate NDAA amendment and provide more good news for Vietnam veterans suffering from bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms. House Amendment 264, introduced by Rep. Josh Harder (D-Calif.), would add these conditions, which have been scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, to the list of Agent Orange presumptives. The amendment echoes S.A. 1972, which was introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) last week.

July 2020

BREAKING NEWS: Tester's Landmark Bill to Provide Benefits to Vets Exposed to Agent Orange Passes Senate

After urging support for his amendment on the Senate floor, Senator successfully passes legislation as part of the must-pass annual defense bill

(U.S. Senate) – Vietnam veterans suffering from diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange are one step closer to receiving critical care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) following sustained efforts from U.S. Senator Jon Tester to include his [bipartisan legislation](#) in the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)* – a must-pass annual defense bill.

Tester took to the Senate floor earlier today to [urge his colleagues](#) to support his amendment which would expand VA's list of medical conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange to include Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism—health conditions that each meet the historical standard for being added to the presumptive list for service-connection as it relates to Agent Orange exposure.

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



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA



**All chapter
functions have been
cancelled for
August**





Auxiliary Programs



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

Needed now for Hygiene Kits

full size bars of soap, toothbrushes and regular size toothpaste, razors (disposable),
full size deodorant, and white socks. Contact Judy to make arrangements to drop them off or have them picked up.

Judy Bushko 480- 759-1717 - jdbushko@earthlink.net

Please remember to save items for Books for the soldiers, old cell phones and items for the Hygiene Kits for the ladies, so they will have them when we resume our functions.



Newsletter Editor

Marlene Fox

Since we are unable to get together and visit at our chapter functions, I have been trying to put pictures and comments from our chapter members in our newsletters to help us feel connected. For this month I decided to highlight some of our chapter couples and I ask them to send me photos and information about their weddings. I hope you enjoy! If you have any suggestion on something you would like to see in the newsletter please let me know and I will consider it. Marlenekfox@cox.net – 480-747-8708



Staying Connected during the Pandemic



George & Jo Meegan



59 Years

Jo & I were married in 1961 in Beirut Lebanon. We met in Afghanistan where I was a Marine Security Guard and she worked for ICA (international aid program) in 1959. We have three children (a boy & 2 daughters).



John & Judy Bushko



47 Years

John and Judy were married on Nov 1, 1972. In Canonsburg PA.





Fred & Ann Ferguson



48 Years

Fred and I married on May 30, 1972 in the Ft Knox hospital chapel, by Chaplin Grant who had served with Fred in Vietnam and sometimes doubled as Fred's door gunner on his helicopter missions. We had two witnesses, a colleague of Fred's and his wife. It was a very small ceremony



We used the hospital chapel because that was Chaplin Grant's duty station. Our music was a Huey on the landing pad, and I think I had a corsage, but no traditional wedding dress.

I share all these details because it was not what one usually thinks of in terms of military weddings. By the way, we got married on Memorial Day per Fred's request, so he would never forget our anniversary, but then the government in their infinite wisdom, changed the date. Sometimes you just can't win. 😊



David & Lynne Loss



57 Years

Lynne and David's were married on Sept 3rd, 1961 in Albuquerque, NM



Lynne and I were married in Albuquerque, NM. I was at UNM. Lynne grew up in Los Alamos, NM during the Manhattan Project. Her parent's with top Security Clearance's worked there. They left in 1957 and her father as an engineer went on to help with the building of the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was among seven

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Engineers that worked in the building of the first phase. Unfortunately, her father suffered from Radiation Exposure and Beryllium disease from his job in Los Alamos and Lynne is in the same situation.



Karl & Vickie Pfitzer



32 Years

Vickie and Karl were married on September 2, and again on September 3, 1987 on Hidden Beach, Princeville, Kauai, Hawaii



The reason for the second wedding was that the filmography's film failed during Wedding one and we were fortunate that the entire wedding party of six; Vickie, myself, the Federal Judge who married us, the wedding planner and her husband and the photographer were all available the next day at the same time and place for Wedding two.



Bill & Lesley Baran



45 Years

***Bill and Lesley Mentch Baran.
Married on November 22, 1975
Cary Methodist Church,
McHenry Co., IL***



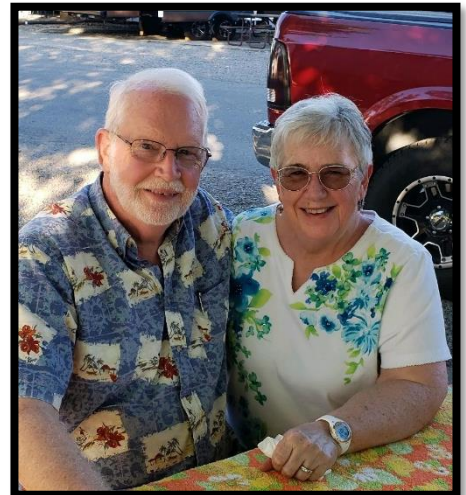


Jim & Bonnie Faull



57 Years

**Jim & Bonnie Faull were
married in Seattle Washington
on July 20, 1963**



My wife, Bonnie, and I live in Vancouver, Washington, but spend the winters in Casa Grande, Arizona. So... that's why I joined the SMC -. Satellite.

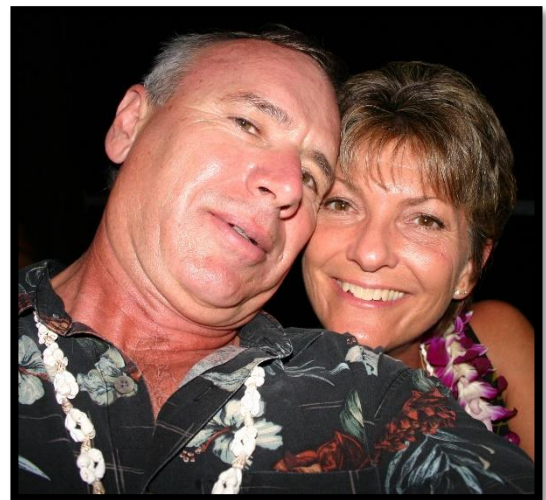


Mike & Jan Ostermeyer



18 Years

**Mike & Jan were
married
August 24, 2002
In Scottsdale Arizona**



**We got married on a Saturday morning
in the courtyard area on the North side of Scottsdale Civic Center Mall.**



Ed & Marlene Fox



51 Years

***Ed and Marlene were married in a
small ceremony at a ministers house
in Fresno, CA on
November 29, 1968
The day after Thanksgiving***



Marlene & Ed Fox



Steve & Cindy Wood



31 Years

***Steve & Cindy Wood were
married on
June 10, 1989 in Mesa AZ.***

***Steve says they are still
rookies. Cindy's parents
were married for 66 years!***



Cindy & Steve Wood



Ritt & Pat Schiano



39 Years

**Ritt and Pat Schiano
were married on
May 23, 1981
in Bowie, Maryland**



Al & Paula Anderer



54 Years

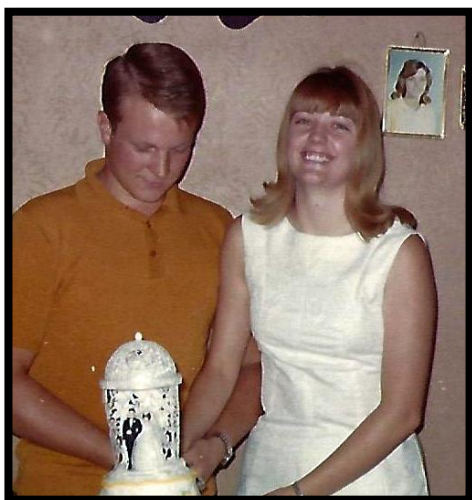
**Al and Paula
were married on
May 28, 1966
in Atlanta, Georgia**



Al says Paula was 9 years old & he was maybe 11 ...



Arlan & Peggy Allen



52 Years

**Arlan & Peggy
Eloped on
June 19, 1968
In Vaughn, NM**



In December 1967 Arlan mom and my mom who worked together decided to set us up on a blind date! So Arlan and I met on a blind date, December 15, 1967. Fast forward to February 1968: Arlan gives me an engagement ring and we start trying to plan a wedding for July 17, 1968. Between both our moms, my oldest sister (who was staying with us because her husband was deployed to Vietnam) and the friend whose dress I was going to borrow things just got out of our control and nothing we wanted seemed to fit their desires!

After graduation, my grandmother invited me to go home with them for a while and let things calm down regarding the wedding. I stayed with my grandparents for a while, trying to decide what to do about the wedding. By this time, neither of us wanted to go through with it. I got home around the 15th of June. After a few more heated arguments, Arlan gave me an ultimatum "We get married tomorrow, or everything is over"!

So, we Eloped! Arlan and a friend of his talked to the minister of the First Christian Church, who agreed to marry us. Arlan picked me up on the morning of June 19th telling my parents we were going to visit his grandparents for the day.

I'll never forget the look on my father's face when we returned with a completed wedding certificate. Mom and Dad were doing laundry with a wringer washer. As dad was shoving the towels in the wringer, I could feel the tightness in my neck i.e. "I could wring your neck"! They said it wouldn't last. We are working on 53 years!



Rebecca Schmidt & Roddy Charlton



16 Years

Roddy and I have been married for 16 years. We met right after 9-11, at the Phoenix Art Museum's "Adult Night." After I went thru the buffet line, I looked around the museum's Cafe for a tall, handsome, right age, successful looking man sitting alone. And I found him!! Roddy was wearing his very sexy brown leather Boeing jacket. Our first date was a tour of the Boeing facility, with lunch at Applebees. Our second date was a tour of the Rosson House (I was on the Board), with lunch at the Tea House, followed by our First Smooch on the top floor of the parking lot overlooking downtown Phoenix. The rest is history!

For Your Information



Connecting Arizona Service members, veterans, families, and helpers to information. support and resources

The President of Arizona Council of Chapters has requested that all Arizona chapters of MOAA join the ‘beconnected’ organization. Chapter president John Bushko has taken steps to fulfill this directive.

Be Connected Partnership Next Steps:

Be Connected Website <https://beconnectedaz.org/>

- Visit the Be Connected website and explore the different features and other organization in your area.

Attend Training

- Attend a [Military/Veteran Resource Navigation](#) training and share with others in your organization.

Schedule Training

- If feasible, [schedule](#) an in-service training for your organization.

Be Connected Materials

- Request [Be Connected materials](#) that can be displayed in your organizations spaces and given out, as needed, when interacting with service members, veterans and their families.

Be Connected and Be Connected Partner Logos

- Use the provided Be Connected logos for your organization’s website, social media, resource lists, print material, etc.

Updates

- Keep the Be Connected team updated with new resources, services, initiatives or events that you would like us to share on the Be Connected website, using the “Something not working? Please tell us!” link, located in the bottom right of the page.

Support

- Contact us if you need any technical assistance or have any questions. We are here to support you and your organization.

VA Department of Veterans Affairs Vietnam Veterans of

July 31, 2020

VA publishes final regulation for its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today published its final regulation to improve and expand the VA [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers \(PCAFC\)](#) with the final regulation going into effect on Oct. 1.

Under the final regulation, PCAFC will include [eligible](#) Veterans that have a single or combined service-connected disability rating by VA of 70% or higher, regardless of whether it resulted from an injury, illness or disease.

This is a notable change to the definition of serious injury from the current regulations, among other improvements aimed at standardizing the PCAFC and improving transparency in the program.

[Expansion](#) of VA's PCAFC to eligible Veterans of earlier eras will occur in two phases. The first phase will begin October 2020 and will include eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty in the active, military, naval or air service on or before May 7, 1975. Phase two will go into effect two years later and include eligible Veterans of all eras.

"The expanded regulation addresses the complexity and expense of keeping Veterans at home with their families who provide personalized care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This will allow our most vulnerable Veterans to stay with their loved ones for as long as possible. Expanding the program and eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers ensures we can continue to meet the changing needs of America's Veterans and their caregivers."

Additionally, the new regulation will change the PCAFC [stipend payment methodology](#), define new procedures for revocation and discharge, and include certain advance notice requirements aimed at improving communication between VA and PCAFC participants as well as include information for [current program participants](#). VA is also standardizing operating procedures for the Caregiver Support Program, providing new training for staff and caregivers, and boosting operational capacity by hiring additional staff. With this expansion, Primary Family Caregivers in PCAFC will also have access to financial planning and legal services. VA is also working to fully implement the new information technology system required by the VA MISSION Act of 2018 by October 2020.

VA's Caregiver Support Program offers support services for caregivers including training, peer mentoring, respite care, a telephone support line, and self-care courses for caregivers of covered Veterans enrolled in VA health care who need personal care services.

Caregivers can visit [VA Caregiver support](#) website or call the Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274 for questions.

The final regulation can be found [here](#). If necessary, search for RIN 2900-AQ48, Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments under the VA MISSION Act of 2018.

Source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5494>

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



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 and their families and survivors.

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. _____

Superstition Mountain Express

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

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Dinner,
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
August – no meeting	August 14 th – Cancelled	Sunday August 16th – Cancelled
September 14 th – 9:00am	September 11 th - 11:30am	Sunday September 20th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
October 12 th – 9:00am	October 9 th – 11:30am	Sunday October 18th - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
November 9 th – 9:00am	November 13 th – 11:30	Sunday November 15th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
December 14 th – 9:00	December 11 th – 11:00am	Sunday December 20th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner