Greetings All,

As I sit here writing this article, we have had a rainy start to the monsoon season, definite change from last year. I hope everyone has been able to endure the storms without any severe damage to property or person. It was great to see those able to attend the July luncheon meeting and I hope to see everyone again on August 21st.

Some of you may receive an email from MOAA, please respond to the survey honestly. If you have any specific concerns that I can help with let me know.

As we move toward the end of the year, we will be looking for any members who would like to guide the chapter into the future. We have several members of the Board of Directors and Officers who have worked many years to keep the chapter moving forward but are in need of a rest. We need people to step forward to fill some of the board positions. If you are interested, please contact either Ed Mangan or me and let us know you are interested.

Stay safe and stay dry during the storms.

John

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/

President’s Comments

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Please remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!

2021 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 480-219-1020 emarsh125@gmail.com
Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko 480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen
Treasurer, COL Thomas Ralph
Past President, MG Dave Rataczak

2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs CW4 Arlan Allen
Membership COL John Marsh
ROTC/JROTC Capt Ed Mangan
Personal Affairs Lt Gregory Moore
Legislative COL Robert Grierson
Newsletter Mrs. Marlene Fox
Website Lt. Ann Ferguson
Transition Coordinator 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

The auxiliary will not be meeting in August. It was decided at our last meeting that we needed to take a vacation. We will meet again on Wednesday, September 8th at 11:00 at Goody's restaurant. The project is yet to be determined, but I promise there will be one.
If anyone has greeting cards, they would like to get rid of, we are collecting them for a special project we are thinking of doing. All kinds of greeting cards will be appreciated.
At the luncheon I passed out some cards for people to sign and we hope to give them out at the VA nursing home. We will continue to do Hygiene Kits and are accepting donations for that as well.
See you in September!
Judy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hygiene Kits</th>
<th>Toothbrushes</th>
<th>Toothpaste - full size</th>
<th>Disposable razors</th>
<th>Bar of soap - regular size</th>
<th>Deodorant</th>
<th>White socks</th>
<th>Wash cloths</th>
<th>Backpacks</th>
</tr>
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</table>

The veterans have voiced their appreciation for these kits. They are given one per month. That is why we ask for full sized items.
Most of the veterans are given plastic grocery bags to carry their personal belongings in. In November we were able to take many backpacks for them to use in place of the plastic bags, but more are needed.
All donations can be brought to any chapter function or call any chapter board member and we’ll see if we can pick them up. Monetary donations are also appreciated! Thanks for your support!

These are the items we put in the Hygiene Kits. Your donations are greatly appreciated. You may also make a monetary donation using the coupon on page 12 of the newsletter.

We also are still collecting backpacks/bags with shoulder strings for the Vets at the Veterans Center.

July Luncheon Meeting

Vice President Judy Bushko, our Ladies Auxiliary leader extraordinaire was there to greet us and sell some raffle tickets to support our chapter’s programs.
Judy is always smiling, upbeat, and working hard. We appreciate all she does for the chapter!

Our Secretary Peggy Allen was there to greet and check us in. Peggy helps Vice President Arlan Allen with the Luncheon meetings.
There are a lot of details involved and Peggy is always on top of them, making sure things run smoothly. We really appreciate all Peggy does for the chapter!
Al Anderer          Meredith & Greg Moore
Judy Bushko          Paula & Al Anderer
George & Jo Meegan    Barbara Austin
Jim Austin          Arlan & Peggy Allen

Going through the buffet line
There was so much food. It was hot and delicious! The red and white checkered tablecloths were a nice touch for our casual Hamburger and Hot Dog meal. This is not a typical lunch. We had a green salad, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, and hamburgers with all the fixings and desert! This is definitely a step up from the Golf Course Restaurant!

President John Bushko

Remembering those who served

President John Bushko, Vice President Arlan Allen, and Newsletter Editor Marlene Fox attach the MOAA Five Star Communications Award to our Chapter Flag Streamer!
As Ed and I were on our way to last months luncheon we were discussing the price for a lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers. Thirty dollars is a lot to pay for a regular lunch. These lunches are anything but regular! At the golf course restaurant, we were paying $30.00 for a dinner. After the management changed, the food was not nearly as good as it had been; we no longer had cloth napkins, (the ones I use at home were better than what they gave us), the room was often cramped for space, they did raise their prices, and they really didn’t want us there!

Having been to two luncheons at the Doubletree we decided that we are getting more for our money. The food is delicious, the room is very nice, private, and large. They have a server there to help us throughout lunch. The staff is being very accommodating and makes us feel welcome.

Don’t think of this as just a lunch but as an opportunity to enjoy a great meal and visit with your fellow members at a time of day where those that don’t like or can’t drive at night can still attend. If you have not attended a luncheon yet, please at least give it a try!

Marlene Fox
Two boys were talking about marriage. Billy asked Tommy, how many times can you get married?
Tommy answered, I think its sixteen!
Four Better, four Worse, four Sicker, and four Poorer!
Chairman Reports

1st Vice President
Arlan Allen - Programs

August…. It’s still very hot, and only half-way through the monsoon season! I hope no one has had any flood issues or wind damage (although it is a great change.)

Our Chapter monthly luncheon will be on Saturday, August 21st. Social begins at noon with lunch at 1230. The location is the Double Tree by Hilton, Phoenix/Mesa, 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ. The menu is Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauces served with mixed green salad, pasta, Chef’s choice of veggie, rolls and butter, Chef’s choice of dessert along with iced tea and water. The cost is $30.00 per person. Reservations must be made by Sunday, August 15th. We turn in our reservations on Monday August 16th. Once the Chapter has submitted the final count to the hotel, that is the number of meals that must be paid. If you make a reservation, and do not attend, you will be responsible for reimbursing the Chapter for your meal. You can make your reservations by email: cw4allen@cox.net or phone 602-283-5862 (can leave a message).

For those of you that have not had the opportunity to dine with your fellow Chapter members, at the new location, you are really missing a great time! The facility is much nicer than any of our prior locations. Not only is the facility an improvement, the quality and quantity of food is a significant improvement over our last three locations.

I have received several negative comments about the cost of the meals. I will take this opportunity to point out that the cost of the meal service is the same we have been paying for the last few years. We are lucky the cost hasn’t gone up as the costs for the restaurants to buy the groceries to make the food has definitely gone up recently. We were wondering what happened to any left-over food and were told that any left-over food from our buffet is taken to a homeless shelter!

The only thing that has changed is we have moved to an improved location, with better food, and a different time and day. I believe the time change is advantageous, as we are no longer are required to drive at night to attend the Chapter meetings. The cost of dinning with your fellow members, is unchanged. I hope you come out and try the new facility and reconnect with your friends and fellow members. The comradery and fellowship are an important tenet of our organization.

CW4 Arlan R Allen, USA, Retired

Personal Affairs
Greg Moore

VA Phone numbers & Extensions
VA Indian School: 602-277-5551(main) - SE VA Clinic: 480-397-2890
If only extension is listed below, dial main number above first, then extension.
*Dental: 480-397-2860 (direct)SE VA
*Dental: 602-277-5551 Ex 4774
*MyHealtheVet Coord: Victoria Reyes Ex: 3934
*Telehealth: Erika Kinzie Ex. 4030
*Dietician: Jenessa, 602-329-1486
*Patient Advocate:Jennifer Russiello Ex: 3774
*Travel Benefits fax: 602-222-2601
*Agent Orange: Kirsten Lamunyon Ex: 6749
*Kirsten.Lamunyon@Va.gov
*Prosthetics: 6417
*Cardio Rehab: Ex: 7926
*Cardiology: 602-200-2323 Or Ex: 7262
*Billing: Tri-West WPSe-VAPC3, P.O. Box 7926 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7926
*Nuclear Medicine: Ex. 7639
*Community Care: Ex. 2254

Legislative
Robert Grierson

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

Monsoon greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

Continued next page
Superstition Mountain Express

Now that the State legislative session has come to an end, things have gotten much quieter. It’s been a time of reflection by MOAA as they review the “grassroots” level Advocacy In Action. I had the opportunity to participate in a 90-minute ZOOM call on July 20th with 34 other states. Some did well in their past legislative sessions like Arizona and Arkansas. Others like Vermont and Colorado sound like they had a bad session and really need help in working with their legislators. What was stated across the board was that any and all success is derived from having MOAA members contacting their legislators and speaking with a unified message. So, what I’m saying is our success, is not only your success. You made it a success by being proactive. For that I thank you.

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

Federal Legislation
Last month I mentioned that AZ Senator Kelly is supporting legislation aimed at correcting Healthcare coverage of dependents and young adults under Tricare that ends at 21 or 23 if enrolled in school fulltime. To provide coverage costs upwards of $3,000 per year per child. This was listed as the Second Advocacy item in May’s legislative update. HR 475 and S. 1972 are working their way through the legislative process. Both bills are lagging in cosponsors and can use any help possible.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is in development. Many controversial items are included in this bill. Items like requiring women to register for the draft, removing command authority over certain criminal cases like sexual assault, reductions in Naval ship strength, a 2.7% pay increase when inflation is expected to exceed 5%. Remember, the NDAA is policy focused, and not an appropriations bill. That comes next. It’s expected to be an acrimonious process, so assume a continuing resolution come this fall.

FIRST ADVOCACY ITEM: Concurrent Receipt Update: Major Richard Star Act S. 344. The Major Richard Star Act, which would provide concurrent receipt for service-members unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA. More than half the Senate supports it. Here is how you can help. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Major Richard Star Act Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

SECOND ADVOCACY ITEM: Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation. Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. Omnibus bills have been introduced by both chambers of Congress to address this issue. The Senate’s Cost of War Act and the House’s Honoring our PACT Act provide the change we need in recognizing and caring for toxic exposures. Each of these bills include the two key bills that MOAA supported with our Advocacy in Action campaign. In addition to supporting the comprehensive toxic exposure bills, we also encourage support for the following bills.

The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act introduced by Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Reps. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) and Peter Meijer (D-Mich.) supports veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards by conceding exposure based on location and time. If veterans file claims, the act also requires VA to help them receive a medical examination.

The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, introduced by Sens. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Rep. Mike Bost (R-III.) would create comprehensive toxic exposure reform to expand health care, improve the presumptive process, and ensure veteran input in the process about the critical conditions affecting the health and well-being of servicemembers, veterans, families, survivors, and caregivers as a result of exposures while in service. These bills are an essential part of MOAA’s 2021 Advocacy in Action campaign for comprehensive toxic exposure reform. Please take a moment to write your lawmakers about the importance of backing these bills. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmaker to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform. Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

THIRD ADVOCACY ITEM: Ask Your House Member to Support a Needed Fix for Military Families. H.R. 4021, introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Elaine Luria (D-Va.), would create an advisory council of EFMP-enrolled families and representatives from the Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense Education Activity, and DoD’s Office of Special Needs. The council
would represent the diversity of the disability community and would be charged with making non-statutory, semiannual recommendations related to EFMP to the services and congressional armed services committees. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask Your House Member to Support the Representation for Exceptional Military Families Act. Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

There are multiple miscellaneous house bills which are under consideration too. Here are some which may be of interest:

HR 148 - A bill to provide a work opportunity tax credit for military spouses and to provide for flexible spending arrangements for childcare services for military families.

HR 239 - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

HR 344 - A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an analysis of the need for women-specific programs that treat and rehabilitate women veterans with drug and alcohol dependency and to carry out a pilot program regarding such programs.

HR 910 - A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct reviews of certain budget requests of the President for the medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

HR 912 - A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements relating to mental health and suicide prevention outreach to minority veterans and American Indian and Alaska Native veterans, and for other purposes.

HR 914 - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and for other purposes.

HR 1012 - A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the Six Triple Eight.

HR 1276 - A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

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**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. Thanks for your continued support! **Over 470 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 patient’s family members for comfort and they are greatly appreciated.

**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 11400 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.
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 2021 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Print first and last name</th>
<th>Select nametag type</th>
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<td>2. ______________________</td>
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August Luncheon Meeting
Saturday August 21, 2021 – Double Tree by Hilton
Social Hour - Noon   Lunch – 12:30pm
Buffet Style
Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce served with mixed green salad, pasta, Chef’s choice of veggie, rolls and butter, Chef’s choice of dessert along with ice tea and water.

$30.00 per meal – Name(s) ____________________________

Reservations must be in by Sunday, August 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

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

2022 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 _________________________________
2021 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Board Meetings</th>
<th>Chapter Auxiliary Luncheons</th>
<th>Chapter Luncheon Meetings</th>
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<tr>
<td>No meeting</td>
<td>July 14th – 11:00am</td>
<td>July 17th – 12 noon social – 12:30 lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>No meeting</td>
<td>August 11th – No Luncheon</td>
<td>August 21st – 12 noon social – 12:30 lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13th – 9:30</td>
<td>September 8th – 11:00am</td>
<td>September 18th – 12 noon social – 12:30 lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 11th – 9:30</td>
<td>October 13th – 11:00am</td>
<td>October 16th – 12 noon social – 12:30 lunch</td>
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Be Connected Website  [https://beconnectedaz.org/](https://beconnectedaz.org/)
Visit the Be Connected website and explore the different features and other organizations in your area.