



Superstition Mountain Express



September 2021

Volume 43, Issue 1

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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

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Greetings Friends

I hope everyone is surviving the summer weather. Fortunately, it has not been as hot as last year. I know as soon as I say that we will experience a long streak of super-hot weather.

I got an email from MOAA National notifying me that our chapter again received the 5-Star Excellence Award. According to Peggy, this is 10 years in a row. I want to thank all who participated in the activities that allowed us to reach this milestone. In light of this information, I will travel to the MOAA annual meeting for the award presentation on October 15th. I will miss the October membership meeting, but I will be sure to represent the Superstition Mountain Chapter well.

I don't know how many of you received the MOAA Diversity Survey, if you did and have any comments, please let me know. I have heard from others around the state that they were not pleased with way the questions were worded or the list of answers provided to select from.

I hope everyone enjoys the Labor Day holiday and please remember those who were lost on 9-11-2001.

Continued on next page

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	480-2191020 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	

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	
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

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President's message continued...

The VA announced it will begin processing claims for the chronic disabilities of asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis, to include rhinosinusitis, as of Aug. 5th, with servicemembers who deployed in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War and in response to the Global War on Terror eligible to have their claims fast-tracked.

If you are not signed up to receive the MOAA newsletter, it is full of important and interesting information affecting active duty and veterans. Just go to moaa.org, login and review your Subscription and Notification selections.

Stay safe and healthy.

John



AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



Greetings,

I hope everyone is doing well. I missed seeing everyone in August but did enjoy the respite. September officially has us back from summer and I am ready for the next year of working with these ladies!

The auxiliary will meet at Goodies on Wednesday, September 8th at 11:00. We will be doing hygiene kits. Hope to see all of you there. If you haven't joined us before, please consider doing so. It is a delightful group of ladies.

Judy

August Luncheon Meeting



Everyone visiting with each other before lunch

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Jo & George Meegan.



Paula & Al Anderer



Ann Schminke, Marlene Fox, Lou Bates



Ed Pollen John Bushko



Roddy Charlton & Rebecca Schmidt



Ritt Schiano. Jim Austin



Arlan & Peggy Allen



Jim & Barbara Austin



Ed Mangan & Ann Schminke



Marlene & Ed Fox

We had a good turnout for the luncheon. It was nice to see a few more of our members attend. We have missed seeing everyone and truly enjoyed catching up.

The food was again delicious! Great way to spend a Saturday afternoon!



Remembering those who served

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Going through the buffet line



President John Bushko

President John Bushko announced that the chapter has received the 5-Star Excellence Award for the 2020 year! Last year was quite a challenge for the chapter, and the Officers and Directors did a great job keeping the membership engaged.

A special thanks to President John Bushko for his outstanding leadership!

September Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Eckert	5
Laura Farmer-Wilson	16
Ed Fox	18
Judy Gofas	4
Joyce Herd	26
Elna Lidman	4
Roberta Rawls	17
Curtis Walker	10
Gerald Wittman	15

Donna Conger	26
Charolette Eckert	21
Laura Ferguson	1
Melonie Ralph	9
Margaret Romas	12
Patricia Schaino	24
Carolyn Wittman	28

Michael & Gail.	7
Jeffery & Elna Foster.	8
Tom & Kay Galor	10
Dennis & Carol Languell	23
David & Lynne Loss	3
John & Marilyn Marsh	12
Karl & Vickie Pfitzer	2



Central Arizona Satellite Chapter MOAA



No meeting date set for September

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.

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**Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA
Auxiliary Luncheon at Goody's Café
1862 W Baseline, Mesa AZ 85202**

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2021

**Lunch at 11:00am
Order lunch off the menu
No reservation needed**

**We will be working on
Hygiene Kits for the Veterans Center**



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA

Luncheon Meeting

Saturday September 18, 2021

12 noon Social – 1:00pm Lunch

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

Menu

Beef Lasagna, served with mixed green salad, Chef's choice of vegetable, rolls with butter and Chef's choice of dessert along with iced tea and water.

\$30.00 per person

**Reservations by Sunday, September 12th
to Arlan Allen**

4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019

-602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net

Do you have a "Bucket List"?

Some of our members have shared their lists with us

My Bucket List - Ritt Schiano



One item from my "Bucket List" was to visit Normandy. My wife had one to go on a "River Cruise". So, in 2019 we combined both and completed a Viking River Cruise from Paris to Normandy. It was fantastic! Picture #1

Another is to visit some of the National Parks (Yellowstone, Glacier, Yosemite). It is one of the reasons we moved back to Arizona from the east coast. But COVID hit right after we arrived back, so it is still on my List.

One more was to make a Hole-In-One in golf. I did that here in Arizona in 2012. Picture #2 -



My Bucket List – Gerald Wittman

Things I have yet to do: 1. Kentucky Derby, 2. Canadian Rockies via Train, 3. National WWII Museum — New Orleans, 4. California Redwoods, 5. Monument Valley, 6. Antelope Canyon (Page, AZ), 7. River Cave (north of Flagstaff), 8. Meteor Crater — Winslow, AZ,)

Completed from my original list: Australia & New Zealand (Jan 2015) -- Bourbon Trail (Nov 2005, Jul 2011, Jun 2015, Oct 2018) - New England — Fall Colors (Oct 2017) - Indianapolis 500 (May 28, 2017) - South America (Jan 2017) - Machu Pichu (Oct 2018) - Corvette Museum (Jun 2016) - Normandy (June 2017)

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Rebecca Schmidt's Top Bucket List Items:

1. Lose 40 pounds (top of list for decades) - 2. Get in shape (also on list for decades)
3. Go through trash & paperwork (also decades)

Please help me Lord!!

Ann Ferguson

Sorry I don't have a bucket list per se. My goal is to live healthy long enough to see my grandchildren grow to adulthood as positive contributing members of society. Since my youngest is just 6 months old and I am almost 81, I put my time into staying healthy, enjoying my family, and giving back to my community.

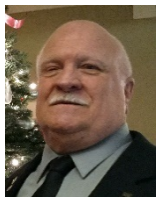
My Bucket List – Ed Fox

1. Attend Wimbledon in England – 2. Have my own woodworking shop and make furniture for my family (2000- still doing it)

My Bucket List - Marlene Fox

- 1 - Visit as many National Parks and Historical place in the US as I can. (Been to some but is ongoing) – 2 - Ride in a horse drawn carriage in the snow at Christmas

Chairman Reports



1st Vice President Arlan Allen - Programs

Our Chapter monthly luncheon will be on Saturday, September 18th. Social time begins at noon with lunch at 1:00pm. We are going back to the one-hour social time now that summer is over. The location is the DoubleTree by Hilton, Phoenix/Mesa, 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ.

Menu is Beef Lasagna, served with mixed green salad, Chef's choice of vegetable, rolls with butter and Chef's choice of dessert, along with iced tea and water. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Reservations must be made by Sunday, September 12th.

We will turn in the reservations to the hotel on Monday, September 13th. You can make your reservations by email: cw4allen@cox.net or phone 602-283-5862. Once the Chapter has submitted the final count to the hotel, then we are responsible for payment for that number of meals. If you make a reservation, and do not attend, you will be responsible for reimbursing the Chapter for your meal. Hope to see everyone for the September 18th SMC luncheon.

All of our meetings will now be Saturday luncheons. The hotel does not have a bar open at lunch time due to the Covid situation. This may change in the future.

We stopped having wine for our toasts because it added almost a hundred dollars to our lunch price.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

This year is the 78th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor and Arizona is the only state having a remembrance of this important date in our history. We are asking someone from the Chapter to represent Superstition Mountain Chapter in presenting a wreath at this event. If you are interested in presenting the wreath, please let me know. Only two people allowed per wreath. The paperwork must be submitted by November 10, 2021. The location is the Wesley Bolin Plaza, and all presenters must report no later than 9:30 am and the ceremony begins at 10:55 am.

Arizona Veteran Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

I have reserved a table for the Chapter at this luncheon. We currently have four (4) open seats. If you would like to attend the luncheon, please let me know and I will add you to the list. The luncheon is Friday, October 15, 2021, at the Talking Stick Resort. Social Time begins at 10:30am and ballroom doors open at 11:30am with opening ceremony and remarks at 11:35am. Lunch will be served at 11:50am and the Induction Ceremony begins at 1:00pm.

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Personal Affairs
Greg Moore



Greetings,

Some of you in the past may have been reluctant or unwilling to admit misplacing your wallet while on vacation in, say Santa Fe because of the hassle of replacing your driver's license, Military ID, credit cards etc. As your Personal Affairs Officer, I am here to help and share your pain!

AZ Driver's License: Can be replaced online if you know your DL # (which is on the license you lost.) Solution, take a picture or make a copy of your license. Otherwise, be prepared to spend 63 minutes standing in line at the Tempe Beck office of the AZ DOT. This assumes they are fully staffed that day, and everyone is in good humor and not in training (State employees.)

Retiree military ID: AZ National Guard 48th/McDowell SE corner You must have 2 forms of government ID including passport or Driver's License (which you have misplaced) VA Health card (which you have misplaced with your wallet.) New cards resemble a credit card. For dependent cards, other ID is needed, I would call first.

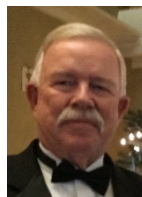
Credit Cards: a call to customer service or bank branch visit will do. Numbers will be changed so be sure to contact those who auto bill your card like Amazon, landscaper, newspaper etc.

Vaccination Cards: If you have lost your vaccination card and got your shots at the VA, the nurse in the lobby will be able to call up your record and issue a new shot card on the spot and a new ID card is available on the second floor in Registration.

Social Security and Medicare cards: can be replaced online. There is a charge for a new Social Security card which is payable using a credit card (that you just lost).

From personal experience, make sure to check that sofa you might have sat on when at the relatives while on vacation.

Please get vaccinated, wash your hands often, keep safe distancing and keep those military still in Afghanistan in your prayers.



Treasurer
Tom Ralph



Welcome back to those of you who have missed the in-person meetings, dinners, and luncheons. September starts our normal schedule of events and hopefully a wonderful return to mostly normal.

As a reminder, chapter dues for 2021 have been excused by the Board of Directors so the next time you need to be concerned about them is at the end of this year and they will be due for 2022 as of the first of January. Some of you have already paid them as I have credited you for 2022 if you sent dues for 2021. Send me a note at: tomralph@cox.net. if you wish to check. Again, welcome back and I hope to see you at our next luncheon meeting.



2nd Vice President
John Marsh- Membership

I am very pleased that we are resuming our monthly luncheon meetings. It's been a long time and I know everyone has missed catching

up with one another.

Not much has been happening with membership. I would like to welcome our new member LTC Ed Pullen and his wife Georgia to our chapter. Ed is USA Retired. Ed attended our August luncheon and we enjoyed meeting him. We look forward to seeing him and Georgia at our future luncheons!

If you know anyone that might like to join our chapter, please let me know.

480-2191020 emarsh125@gmail.com



Legislative
Robert Grierson



Labor Day greetings Superstition Mountain chapter. Like many of you, I'm still reeling from the loss of 13 Marines and Naval corpsman in Afghanistan

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following what appears to be a failed withdrawal plan. As of drafting this section, we still have close to a week before our withdrawal timetable becomes final, so our casualty numbers may continue to grow.

Congress has entered their August recess with minimal activity. But your MOAA team continues their push for critical items. While the legislators are out and about, their staffs are still answering phones and focused on policy.

Here are some of the items MOAA is focused on:

FIRST ADVOCACY ITEM: MOAA Members Share Their TRICARE Pharmacy Challenges. We asked for your input, and you responded. **No action required.**

SECOND ADVOCACY ITEM: MOAA: 'Keep Promises Made in Afghanistan. Veterans' groups joined dozens of lawmakers to send a simple message: Leave no one behind. **No action required.**

THIRD ADVOCACY ITEM: August Recess Is No Time to Take a Break on Concurrent Receipt. Urge your lawmakers to make the much-needed reforms included in the Major Richard Starr Act part of the NDAA.

- Click on **TAKE ACTION:** [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Major Richard Star Act](#)
- Fill in your personal information and Zip Code. Enter "PREVIEW MESSAGE" to see the draft message to be sent to your three Federal Legislators. Your message can be edited or changed if desired.
- Be sure that your Zip Code is entered as it determines which legislators will receive your emails.
- Click "SUBMIT" to send your message.
- NOTE: At the end of the text of this ADVOCACY ITEM, you can disregard the phrase "Click here for a prewritten message to send to your members of Congress", as it is a duplicate of what you are doing or just did.

- **FOURTH ADVOCACY ITEM:** Retirees and Disabled Veterans Due for Record Raise Next Year. Find out what the latest Cost of Living Adjustment figures could mean to you. **No action required.**

- **FIFTH ADVOCACY ITEM:** Reserve Component Benefits Are at Risk. Ask Your House Member to Act Now. After a historically busy year, incentive pay parity is critical to retention. Join MOAA's efforts today.
- Click on [RELATED: [Ask Your House Member to Support Incentive Pay Parity](#)]
- Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.
- Enter "PREVIEW MESSAGE" to see the draft message to be sent to your three Federal Legislators. Your message can be edited or changed if desired.
- Be sure that your Zip Code is entered as it determines which legislators will receive your emails.
- Click "SUBMIT" to send your message.
- NOTE: At the end of the text of this ADVOCACY ITEM, you can disregard the phrase "Click here for a prewritten message to send to your members of Congress", as it is a duplicate of what you are doing or just did.
- **SIXTH ADVOCACY ITEM:** MOAA Supports Legislation Providing Better Benefits for New Military Parents. The bills address issues surrounding leave, parental health, and other retention concerns. **No action required.**

Keep our deployed troops in your prayers. It's obvious they need it.

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

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!

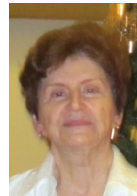


Heart Shaped pillows for VA Hospital and Hospice of the Valley

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.

SMC MOAA Chapter Elections



Nomination Committee Chairman

Ed Mangan

It's that time again when we start looking for members to step up and help lead/run our chapter. The officer positions are our main concern as our current officers have served in these positions for at least three years and are ready for some much-deserved rest. Many of our board members have been working on the board for as long as ten years.

I am looking for members who would like to be on the board. If you are interested, please contact me by phone or email. emangan3@aol.com, (602) 501-0128





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 2022 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 2022 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 magnetic

1. _____

2. _____

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September Luncheon Meeting

Saturday September 18, 2021 – Double Tree by Hilton
Social Hour - Noon Lunch – 1:00pm



Buffet Style

Beef Lasagna, served with mixed green salad, Chef's choice of vegetable, rolls with butter and Chef's choice of dessert along with iced tea and water.

\$30.00 per meal – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Sunday, September 12th

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 _____

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



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

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
September 13 th – 9:30	September 8 th – 11:00am	September 18th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
October 11 th – 9:30	October 13 th – 11:00am	October 16th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
November 8 th – 9:30	November 10 th – 11:00am	November 20th - 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
December 13 th – 9:30	December 8 th – 11:00am	December 18th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch



Be Connected Website <https://beconnectedaz.org/>
Visit the Be Connected website and explore the different
features and other organizations in your area.