

MOAA Military Officers Association of America

November 2021	
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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

Well the fall weather finally arrived. I hope everyone had a ghoulish time on Halloween and gave all the ghosts, goblins, and whatever costumed little beggars that came to your door, plenty of treats.

It was my honor to represent the chapter at the MOAA annual meeting and LOE Awards dinner. Judy and I had a good time and came away with helpful information. We made a vacation of sorts out of the trip. We drove and visited our daughter and friends in Ohio, then on to PA to visit family. We spent a few days in Colonial Williamsburg, Alexandria, and DC before attending the MOAA activities.

In my breakout session with other chapter and council leaders, the primary topic was Social Media. MOAA is planning a new Podcast and Facebook training session during the Regional Training event in November. I will not be attending the training so I can attend our membership meeting, but I hope to get the information. The main point of the discussion was the importance of keeping our chapter website and any other social media outlets up to date and relevant. This is our business card and might be the first contact we have with potential new members. I know Ann and Austin are doing a great job with our website and I thank them for their efforts.

Continued on next page



2021 OFFICERS

President, Lt Col John Bushko

1st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen

2nd VP, COL John Marsh

VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko

Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen

Treasurer, COL Thomas Ralph

Past President, MG Dave Rataczak

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480-2191020 emarsh125@gmail.com

480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net

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
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
CAS Membership

Maj. Austin Foote Mrs. Ann Schminke Capt. George Meegan Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin COL Karl Pfitzer Captain Al Anderer Maj Norm Poole

President's message continued...

We had a presentation from the MOAA Vacations representative. I was not aware, but if you book a trip through them a portion of your trip expense goes back to the chapter. If you book a cruise, \$50 per cabin is returned to the chapter. So, if you are planning a trip consider using them to make your reservations.

The keynote speaker for the event was Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. He outlined the key VA initiatives which include expanding the health care infrastructure in the areas of telehealth, mental health, and women's health. A more detailed report of his comments can be found in the October 21st MOAA Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our November meeting on the 20th.

Stay safe and healthy and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

John













Greetings,

The auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, November 10th at Goody's at 11:00. We will be doing Hygiene Kits. Hope to see you there. Thank you for all of your support and hard work in helping our veterans and community.

Judy



Vice President Arlan Allen presided over the meeting in President John Bushkos absence. The presentation on the AH-64, Apache helicopter by Roddy Charlton was superb and enjoyed by all.

Lunch was delicious and there was a lot of it. We are definitely enjoying this new venue!



Al & Paula Anderer Jim & Barbara Austin Rebecca Schmidt & Roddy Charlton



Meredith & Greg Moore







Jim & Barbara Austin

Jen Swaithes Fred Ferguson Arlan Allen Al & Paula Anderer

Fred Ferguson. Arlan Allen



George & Jo Meegan Ann Schminke & Ed Mangan. Greg & Meredith Moore



Roddy Charlton & Rebecca Schmidt



Ann Schminke & ED Mangan



The Buffet line – The food was so good!



Vice President Arlan Allen conducting the meeting.

Guest Speaker Roddy Charlton











The presentation and slide show of the AH-64, Apache helicopter were very informative and impressive. Roddy had many hands-on things to show as well. Everyone enjoyed this! Thanks Roddy!

November Congratulations





MEMBER BIRTHDAY

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARIES

22

1

14

29

15

William & Leslie Baran

John & Judy Bushko

Bob & Denise Dulong

David & Laurel McClean

Ed & Marlene Fox

Helen Benner	24	Magdalen Kwak	12	
Dorothy Demmers	17	Marilyn Marsh	24	
ANN Ferguson	7	Laurel McClean	15	
Robert Grierson	23	Jo Meegan	14	
Florence Griffin	7	Jan Ostermeyer	2	
John Kwak	27	Ann Symonds	25	
Michael Ostermeyer	8	•		
Norm Peters	11		7 6.4	7.
Stephen Wood	3	On Septe	mber 4°	" Ł

On September 4th Edna Lidman celebrated her 100th birthday!

Congratulations Edna!







Levels of Excellence 5-star Winners

- Luke Chapter MOAA
- Superstition Mountain Chapter
 - Tucson Chapter of MOAA
 - · Yuma Chapter
 - Grand Canyon Chapter

President John Bushko accepts the Level of Excellence Award on behalf of the Superstition Mountain Chapter at the MOAA National Annual Meeting and LOE Awards dinner in Washington DC.



Chapter Elections

Capt Ed Mangan
Chairman, Nomination Committee
Past President

The nominating committee is very happy to announce that most of our current board members have agreed to return for 2022. We still need someone to fill the office of 2nd Vice President/Membership and the Director positions of JROTC and Transition Coordinator. Contact President John Bushko for information or if you would like to take on this position.

480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net

A list of the nominees is on the right.

We will be voting and installing during the December Luncheon meeting.



2022 Chapter Board Nominees

President- Lt Col John Bushko
1st Vice President- CW4 Arlan Allen
2nd Vice President-

VP Auxiliary- Mrs Judy Bushko

Treasurer - Col Tom Ralph

Secretary- Mrs. Peggy Allen

Past President - MG Dave Rataczak

Director Positions

Programs - CW4 Arlan Allen

Membership -

Newsletter Editor - Mrs. Marlene Fox

Personal Affairs - 1LT Greg Moore **ROTC** -

Legislative – Capt Ritt Schiano

Transition Coordinator -

Website - Lt Ann Ferguson

Director - Capt. George Meegan

Director - Maj Austin Foote

Director - Mrs. Ann Schminke

Director – Col Karl Pfitzer

Director - CAS Membership Maj Norm Poole

Director – Capt Al Anderer







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

Wednesday November 10, 2021

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

We will be working on Hygiene Kits for our Veterans



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA

Thanksgiving and Veterans Recognition

Luncheon Meeting

Saturday November 20, 2021

12 noon Social – 1:00pm Lunch

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

Color Guard and POW/MIA Ceremony presented by Campo Verde High School JROTC

Menu

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea.

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, November14th to Arlan Allen 4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019 -602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net



Central Arizona Satellite Chapter MOAA



No meeting date set for November

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.

TOYS for TOTS



Once again our chapter is asking for monetary donations for this program. Because of the restrictions many of us face with the Covid-19 virus, we will not be collecting toys at our luncheon meeting.

Send your donation to Greg Moore 1581 W. Corona Dr. Chandler AZ 85224.

Make check out to SMC MOAA. Please write Toys for Tots in the memo on your check and get it to Greg by December 7th.

The money collected will be taken to the Luke supported Toys for Tots Program.



Chairman Reports

1st Vice President
Arlan Allen - Programs

Thanksgiving is nearly here, and I'm still waiting for summer to be over!

The SMC Chapter luncheon will be on November 20th at the Phoenix/Mesa DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa. Social hour begins at 1200 and buffet luncheon is served at 1300. The meal is a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner, with all the trimmings. Cost is \$30.00 per person, and I need your reservations by Sunday, November 14th.

The Campo Verde JROTC Cadets will do the presentation of Colors and perform the POW/MIA Ceremony. For those that have volunteered to sponsor a Cadet, please remember it is \$55.00 per Cadet. Please note in the remarks area on your check "Cadet Sponsor". You can mail your check to Tom Ralph, 20444 N 22st., Phoenix, AZ 85204, or pay at the door.

Our December luncheon will be our holiday celebration and election and installation of the 2022 board. This year we are adding a "WHITE ELEPHANT" gift exchange to our fun afternoon. Don't spend more than \$15.00, no price limit if it's truly a used or white elephant gift.

If anyone has a suggestion for a guest speaker, please contact me with your suggestion. I have requested a visit from anyone from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and am waiting on a reply.

For those that have been reluctant to return to in-person meetings, I encourage you to consider our luncheons. This facility has good spacing, with excellent air flow. The quality of the food surpasses the last three locations the Chapter has used. We miss your camaraderie!

CW4 Arlan R Allen, USA, Ret.



Treasurer Tom Ralph



It was great to see some of you at the September luncheon and I would encourage those of you who can, to try to make our upcoming luncheons. The food is great, and the service is spectacular. It's nice that the weather is starting to improve. Thank goodness for the fall.

Our fiscal position is still very strong, and we seem to have weathered the COVID shutdowns without too many monetary pains, as long as we don't see any worsening of the virus. Our JROTC programs and our auxiliary programs are continuing and hopefully will return to pre-COVID levels soon so I would ask that you consider supporting them if able.

Here's hoping for a great fall season followed by spectacular holidays. We have a lot to make up for.



John Bushko- Membership

The only thing I have is for anyone with a premium membership or considering upgrading to premium or life membership should do it before the end of the year.

Premium membership dues will increase by 23 percent on January 1st. The cost of a Life membership will also increase but that has not yet been determined.



Personal Affairs
Greg Moore



I truly hope this article is being edited by our regular editor which would indicate she is out of the hospital and feeling better. If not, Marlene we're praying for you and sending good thoughts your way.

I have three things this month. The deadline for contributions for Toys 4 Tots is the Nov 20th meeting. If you cannot attend, you can send me your donation. 1581 W Corona Dr. Chandler 85224. I can do receipts or let your check suffice.

Second, did you know you can buy branch specific caskets through Costco online; Cost \$1500, per federal law, you do not have to buy a casket sold by the funeral home performing the service.

Third, you do not have to pay for a copy of your DD214 through a commercial party for a fee. The VA benefits office on

Central in phoenix will print it out on the spot for free.



Legislative Robert Grierson



Halloween greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. At the time of drafting this update, NDAA is still being tossed

around in Washington. As I stated last month, Congress has little hope of finding any common ground on several very contentious issues. Since the likelihood of this bill passing in its current form is questionable, we should expect more continuing resolutions as the shot-term fix in this federal fiscal year.

MOAA has identified several key legislative goals which I'll discuss below.

Several weeks ago, I was invited by MOAA to participate in the Southwest Leaders Workshop in San Diego in November. The focus is on legislation action, recruitment, and surviving spouse issues. I plan to provide you with the take-a-ways from that workshop in my December update.

MOAA has identified several key legislative goals which I will discuss below.

Federal Legislation supported by MOAA.

FIRST ADVOCACY ITEM: Concurrent Receipt Update: Major Richard Star Act S. 344. The Major Richard Star Act would provide concurrent receipt for service-members unable to complete 20 years of service due to combatrelated 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 of the Senate supports it. Here's 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 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 to recognize and care for toxic exposures. Each include the two 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 Bum Pits Exposure Recognition Act introduced by Sens. Dan Sullivan(R-Alaska), Joe Manchin(D-W-Virginia), and Reps. Elissa Slotkin (D-Michigan) and Peter Meijer (D-Michigan) supports

veterans who were exposed to bum 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 Military (TEAM) Act, introduced by Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Rep. Mike Bost (R-ILL) 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 the service members, veterans, families' survivors, and caregivers as a result of exposure 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 lawmakers 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. HR4021, introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) 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-statu tory, 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.

FOURTH ADVOCACY ITEM: Reach out to your lawmakers and support military survivors. MOAA supported legislation could become part of this years NDAA and could make a real difference in the days after a loss. Financial concerns and stress can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for newly widowed spouse. For some, when they discover DFAS may take part or all of the last retirement check back, it can be an overwhelming event. The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (HR 212 and S 1669) will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask your lawmakers to support The Military Retiree Survivor

Comfort Act. Fill in your personal information and zip code.

FIFTH ADVOCACY ITEM: Tell congress to ensure **SGLI** and **VGLI** keep up with inflation. Ask your lawmakers to support the **Families of the Fallen Act.** Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage amounts have not been updated since 2005. This law would raise the level from \$400,00 to \$500,00 – a necessary move to preserve the value of this program in the face. Of inflation. Ask your lawmakers to support this today. **Click on TAKE ACTION:** Ask your lawmakers to co-sponsor the **Supporting Families of the Fallen Act.** Fill in your personal information and zip code.

SIXTH ADVOCACY ITEM: NDAA Amendment could stop proposed Arlington Burial Eligibility Changes. Help preserve this earned benefit and reverse an unfair proposal. Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation. Contact your representatives and urge them to designate in the FY 2022 NDAA the next national cemetery as ANC reaches capacity. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask your lawmakers to preserve the National Cemetery Benefit. 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.

Federal - 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. Support

Federal - 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. Support

Federal - 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. Support

State Legislation

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

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



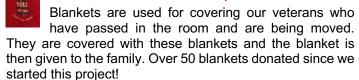
Hygiene Kits for Vets Judy Bushko



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 500 kits made since we started this project!**

Last Call Blankets for VA Hospital



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







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

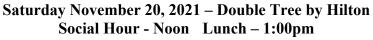
Since 2012, over 11400 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.



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 convices. The informed convices their families entitlements of members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. National MOAA, it's Councils and Chapters are nonpartisan.

	MOAA Na	tional & Supers	tition Mountain Ch	apter Membe	rship App	olication
Date	Pı	rinted Member Name	e & Initial			
Branc	h of Service		Rank			
Spous	se First Name		National MOAA N	umber		
			City			
Home	e Phone #	Wo	ork or Cell#			
Please	e Circle: ARMYAIR F	ORCE-NAVYMA	RINE CORPS- COAST	GUARDNOAA	APUBLIC I	HEALTH SVC
Circle	e All That Apply: REGU	JLAR-RESERVE-N	ATIONAL GUARD-FO	ORMER OFFICE	R-ACTIVE-I	RETIRED-
MAL	E FEMALE WII	DOW WIDOWE	ER			
Meml	per Date of Birth MM_	/DD/YYYY_	Spouse Date of I	Birth MM/DI	/YYY	Y
Anniv	ersary Date	E-ma	ail Address			
and so our codisco tap ir more Super lunch MOA	ervices. As a PREMIUM areer resources (one-tunts on products and into MOAA's staff of example on the content of	M Member you get for one career countravel, and access sperts for financial ne benefits you receiver membership fee is no fee. Chapter bylate check for: \$43.0	full access to everythin seling, résumé review to all MOAA exclusive and investment adviceive at the BASIC Meis \$25 per year. Spouses aws require Chapter mer	ng MOAA has to ys, and interview re publications a re, college schol mbership level. of current membe mbers and Chapter	offer, including advice and news up arships for rs may partic r Auxiliary n	able discounts on products ding our full spectrum of and critiques), countless odates. You'll be able to dependents, and much cipate in Chapter Auxiliary members to be members of
Mak Mail SMC	ose check for: Chapte check payable to Stanta Chapter Application MOAA, Tom Ralph N 22 nd St, Phoenix,	MC of MOAA. Wr and Check to: a, Treasurer	rite 2022 dues in the	memo line		
2044	, ,			·	II D	1.1
		48 le hard plastic, whi	tact, Membership Cor 80-759-1717 jabushko@ea te background with M Form below.	rthlink.net		
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NovemberLuncheon Meeting





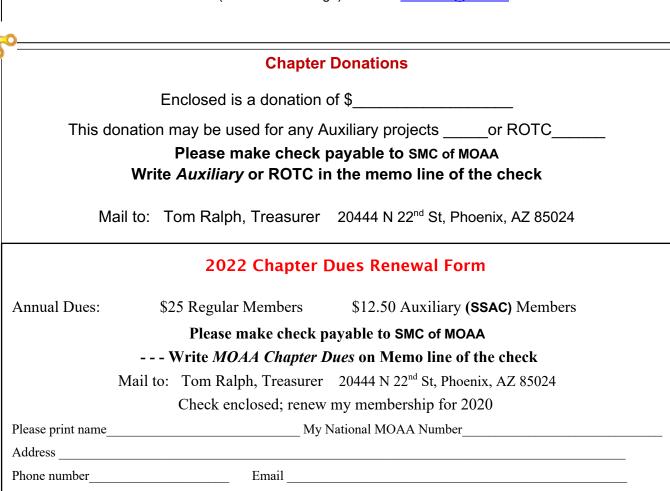
Buffet Style
Traditional Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner, vegetable, rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea.

\$30.00 per meal – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Sunday, November 14th

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





Thank you, all our Veterans! Know that you are appreciated and loved! Veterans Day November 11, 2021



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



2021-22 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
November 8 th – 9:30	November 10 th – 11:00am	November 20 th - 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
December 13 th – 9:30	December 8 th – 11:00am	December 18 th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
January 10 th – 9:30	January 12 th – 11:00am	January 15 th - 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.