



MOAA™ *Military Officers Association of America*

Superstition Mountain Express



December 2021	
Volume 43, Issue 4	
President's Message	1-2
Auxiliary Report	2
Luncheon pictures	2-4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	5
Chapter Board nominees	5
Chapter Lunch Information	6
Auxiliary Lunch Information	6
CAS Information	6
Chair Reports	7-9
Auxiliary Projects	9
Membership Application	10
Donation information	11

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)

Seasons Greeting to All

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. We missed having the Campo Verde JROTC at the November meeting due to a cadet testing positive for Covid, but we hope to have them rescheduled after the New Year.

We had a very informative presentation by Kendall Ryan, a senior at Notre Dame Academy, on the Veterans Heritage Project. This program connects high school students with veterans. The students interview the veterans to document their service experience and have it archived in the Library of Congress to preserve their legacy. If you are interested in being interviewed, go to veteransheritage.org to find out how to participate.

We honored Peggy Allen for her numerous contributions to the success of the chapter. Peggy is our secretary and does a myriad of activities and functions behind the scenes that make my job as president much easier and keeps the chapter moving forward. Congratulations Peggy and thank you for all you do for the chapter. **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,	
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	
ROTC/JROTC	
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

Superstition Mountain Express

President's message continued...

Our Toys for Tots drive was a success and we collected more than last year. Again, this year, we only took monetary donations due to Covid.

For the December meeting we will be voting for and installing the new Board members. The list of candidates is listed below in the newsletter. Norm Poole agreed to step in and take the 2nd VP/Membership position. I am positive he will do well in the position. Thanks, Norm, for stepping up! We will also have a "White Elephant" gift exchange for those that wish to participate.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a joyous and safe New Years.

My Best to All

John



AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



Greetings,

The ladies put together 30 Hygiene Kits at our November luncheon. We were able to take these with 25 Book Bags to the Veterans Center. These Hygiene Kits are the most asked for item and we are so happy we can do this for our Veterans in need.

The auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, December 8th at 11:00 at Goody's. There will not be an activity just enjoying lunch with friends. Please come and join us. We hope to see you there.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and joyous New Year.

Judy

November Luncheon Meeting



Jim & Barbara Austin



Jo & George Meegan



Paula Anderer

Lou Bates

Superstition Mountain Express



Jim & Tammy Ryan.



Kendall Ryan Kandi Wojtysiak.



Arlan & Peggy Allen



Greg Moore Al Ander



**Andrew Hutchinson
Florence Griffin**



**Tom Ralph Karl &
Vickie Pfitzer**



Mike & Jan Ostermeyer



Marlene & Ed Fox



Judy & John Bushko



**Marlene Fox
Sheryl Mauldin**

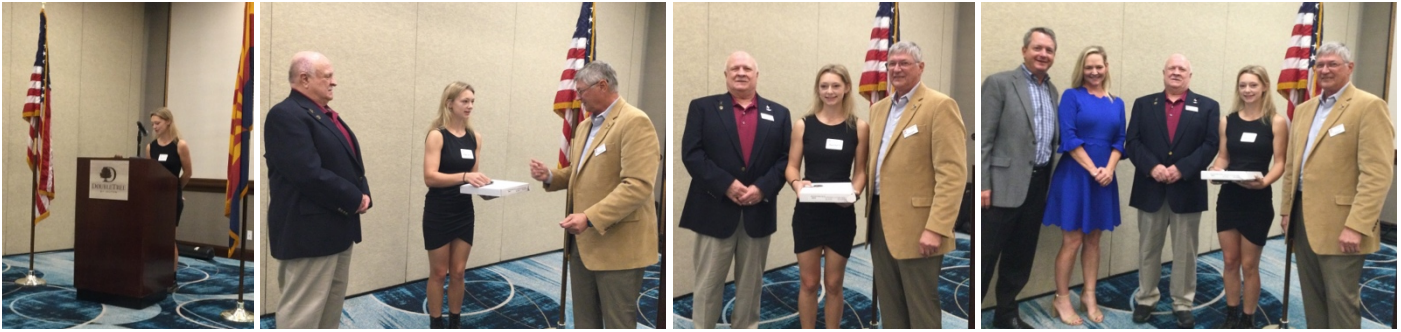


Al & Paula Anderer



Buffet line for a great Thanksgiving lunch!

Superstition Mountain Express



Kendal received a flag that had been flown over the Capital and a Chapter Coin from President John Bushko and Vice President Arlan Allen. Kendal's parents Jim and Tammy pictured on right.

The Chapter was honored to have as our guest speaker, Ms. Kendall Ryan, a senior at Notre Dame Preparatory High School in Scottsdale, during the November luncheon meeting. Kendall was accompanied by her parents, Jim and Tammy Ryan.

For the past three years, Kendall has been a member of the Veterans Heritage Project, which is a nationwide club at high schools and universities that aims to honor veterans and share their stories. This program is one of the many reasons Kendall has decided to follow in the footsteps of the veterans she has interviewed. She intends to apply to the United States Air Force after college, commissioning as a Second Lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

In addition to her academic achievements, GPA 4.08, Kendall has been active in her community. Kendall had demonstrated social responsibility by providing 12,828 meals for Saint Mary's Food Bank. In addition, she co-founded the Notre Dame Preparatory's PAWS Club, which raises money for the Foothills Animal Rescue.



We honored our Secretary, Peggy Allen for all of her contributions to the chapter. Peggy goes the extra mile to help anyone in need. She does a fantastic job helping Arlan with the luncheons and is always looking for ways to help our veterans.

Peggy, we appreciate all you do! Thanks!

Five Star Excellence Award



President John Bushko and Vice President Arlan Allen attach the Excellence award pin to our Chapter Flag!

December Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

John Bushko	29
Jack Follet	4
Leonard Fuchs	7
Gerald Gustafson	26
Loretta O'Malley	9
Lynda Moore	13
Norm Poole	14
Loraine Howard	11
Ed Pullen	24
Dave Rataczak	16
Greg Romas	11

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

Sharon Fales	27
Marlene Fox	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Martin & Royetta Dooley	27
Charles & Charolette Eckert	15
Matt & Linda Hayball	13
Norman & Marcella Pteters	28
Tom & Melonie Ralph	22

*Gerald Gustafson
is celebrating his 100th birthday this month
Congratulations Gerald!*



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 **JROTC and Transition Coordinator position**. 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- Norm Poole
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 – Norm Poole
Newsletter Editor – Mrs. Marlene Fox
Personal Affairs - 1LT Greg Moore
ROTC -
Legislative – Col Robert Grierson
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 Express



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

Wednesday December 8, 2021

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

Today we will be the holiday season
celebrating our friendships and
enjoying some special time with each
other. Please come join us!



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA



**Holiday Celebration
and Election of 2022 Board
Luncheon Meeting
Saturday December 18, 2021**

12 noon Social – 1:00pm Lunch

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

Menu

**Meat Lasagna, salad, rolls, dessert,
coffee, and tea.**

\$30.00 per person

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

**4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019
-602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net**

White Elephant gift exchange



Central Arizona Satellite Chapter MOAA



No meeting date set for December

For additional information: please contact CAS POC Harold Fales at droamin@gmail.com
(573) 308-8372 or CAS Membership Rep. Norm Poole at nrpoo1066@gmail.com (520) 836-8456.

TOYS for TOTS

Great job everyone!

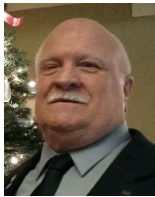
\$900.00

Was collected and given to this
wonderful program!

Thanks for your generosity!



Chairman Reports



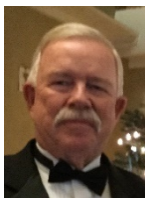
1st Vice President
Arlan Allen - Programs

With Thanksgiving behind us, Christmas and Hanukah are rapidly approaching. I hope you are prepared for these Holidays and are looking forward to spending time with your family and friends.

Our Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA, December meeting will be on Saturday, December 18th, with social hour beginning at noon with the buffet luncheon at 1300. The buffet luncheon will be meat Lasagna, with salad, vegetables, rolls and butter and dessert. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Please have your reservations in by Sunday, December 12th. You can call me at 602-283-5862 or email at cw4allen@cox.net. We are planning a "white elephant" gift exchange. Please bring one wrapped gift, not to exceed \$12.00 to \$15.00, if you would like to participate in this activity.

Our annual December general membership meeting will, also, include the affirmation and induction of the officers and board members for calendar year 2022. I encourage everyone to attend this general membership meeting. This is your Chapter, and your support is paramount to the long-term success of the Superstition Mountain Chapter. camaraderie!

CW4 Arlan R Allen, USA, Ret.



Treasurer
Tom Ralph



I hope everyone is having a wonderful thanksgiving without too many of our seemingly endless medical problems. All my family is well, and they all are coming over for turkey.

We did a good thing for Toys for Tots this year where we exceeded last year's totals and wrote a check for \$900. Thanks to Greg Moore for his great efforts and all of you who contributed.

Best wishes for a happy Holliday season and a great new year.



Personal Affairs
Greg Moore



Our chapter will be donating \$900 to the Marines Toys for Tots due to our members generosity. This is our best ever! Bless you all. Meredith and I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!



Legislative
Robert Grierson



December greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. At the time of drafting this update, NDAA is still being tossed around in Washington. As I have mentioned over the past several months, there are some contentious issues which must be addressed in the Senate. But there are also some important components of the pending legislation that I'll highlight below:

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

Passed the House: A key step in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process came in Sept when the House voted 316-113 to pass its version of the bill. Now it's up to the Senate to take action.

1. Pay raise – A 2.7% pay raise is included in both House and Senate bills although this raise does not keep up with inflation.
2. Basic Needs Allowance – Provisions from the Military Hunger Prevention Act are included in both versions of the NDAA this year and

Superstition Mountain Express

will authorize a new allowance for families that fall within a band of the poverty line.

3. Military spouse employment – The House and Senate both address this topic but propose different methods of resolving the problem. A conference committee will have to address the differences.
4. Guard and reserve pay parity – Like the House version, the Senate includes a fix for incentive pay parity with the reserve component. MOAA has long pushed for this effort and applauds both chambers for including provisions to support reservists and the National Guard.
5. Arlington National Cemetery – DoD may soon publish eligibility changes for ANC that would dramatically reduce the benefit of those currently eligible and for future service-members. The draft rule may still be published this fall.
6. Selective service – NDAA language in the House and Senate indicates selective service will grow to include women this year.

Last week, I attended the MOAA the Southwest Leaders Workshop in San Diego. The focus was on legislation action, recruitment, and surviving spouse issues. Here are some key take-a-ways from the two day session (excuse my cryptic notes):

1. Average age of a MOAA member is 72 and increasing.
2. Life members average 78 years old, premium members' 72 years old, basic members 50 years old.
3. We are having a downward trend in life membership
4. Need outreach to active officers
5. All chapters should maximize their use of social media, not just a website.
6. Our region will have 2 national MOAA board seats coming open next year
7. Chapter newsletters: content must avoid partisan positions and talking points. MOAA welcomes all party positions.
8. Involve and engage the families of prospective members.
9. MOAA store reopening in next 2 weeks.
10. Working the Starr act. Pushing for passage this year.

11. Need comprehensive toxic exposure reform, CBO is scoring very high costs to address. Will require grassroots efforts to fix.
12. The advocacy in action program has adapted during the pandemic. It's been effective in outreach.
13. Tricare young adult coverage may not happen this year.
14. Hearing talk about cutting military and benefits. Will need pushback at the local level.
15. Next Advocacy in Action is programmed for April 25-28 on Capitol Hill
16. Annual membership meeting October 28-29, 2022 in Kansas City

Current Federal issues

FIRST ADVOCACY ITEM: The Benefit Under Threat: Saving TRICARE For Life. TFL turned 20 in October, but its future is far from certain.

No specific action required.

SECOND ADVOCACY ITEM: Senate NDAA Amendment Seeks to Ease Financial Challenges for New Survivors. Ask your lawmakers to support Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act at this critical stage.

Click on **TAKE ACTION:** Ask Your Lawmaker to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

THIRD ADVOCACY ITEM: NDAA May Include TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Fix. This MOAA-backed measure helps ensure your health benefit matches private-sector plans. Contact your lawmakers today.

Click on **TAKE ACTION:** Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap. Fill in your personal information and Zip Code._

Current State issues

I haven't heard much about any contentious issues arising just yet other than the property tax exemption efforts for Veterans. That's one of the issues that has been brought up in legislation form the last few Sessions but did not get across the finish line during the most recent Session. If you take a look at the End of Session-Legislative Update (<https://dvs.az.gov/legislative-updates>), there are

Superstition Mountain Express

quite a few bills that died in the process that I anticipate seeing again.

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 540 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!



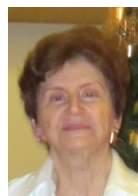
Heart Shaped pillows for VA Hospital and Hospice of the Valley

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.



In loving memory
Jeane Jackson
Wife, mother, friend



Jean and Ralph Jackson were some of our chapter's early members. Ralph held many offices over the years and Jean was right there at his side helping. After Ralphs passing Jean became an auxiliary member continuing her caring involvement with the chapter. We enjoyed seeing Jean at our functions and she is deeply missed.

Superstition Mountain Express



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, its 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 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 Bushko:

480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net

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. _____

Superstition Mountain Express

December Luncheon Meeting

Saturday December 18, 2021 – Double Tree by Hilton

Social Hour - Noon Lunch – 1:00pm

Buffet Style

Meat Lasagna, salad, rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea.

\$30.00 per meal – Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Sunday, December 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 2022

Please print name _____ My National MOAA Number _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____



Superstition Mountain Express

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
December 13 th – 9:30	December 8 th – 11:00am	December 18th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
January 10 th – 9:30	January 12 th – 11:00am	January 15th - 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.