

About Us

President's Message

Legislative Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Personal Affairs Officer

Chapter Development

Transition Liaison

ESGR Liaison

Topics of Interest

AZCOC Meeting Info

Photo Galleries

Helpful Links

Sponsors / Ads

Council Directory

About Us *Page 1 of 2*

Who We Are. The Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC), an affiliate of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), is a dynamic organization of more than 1,100 active, retired, and former officers of the uniformed services of the United States, and the surviving spouses thereof. The AZCOC was chartered on 6 Jun 1975 and later incorporated in the state of Arizona on 30 Sep 1992. It is comprised of [nine chapters and one satellite chapter](#).

Vision. MOAA is recognized as Arizona's most committed and effective advocate for the rights >>>

MOAA National, State Councils, and Chapters are independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations.



About Us Page 2 of 2

and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families.

Mission. To provide a unified voice and support for all MOAA members and chapters in Arizona in promoting and supporting National MOAA's goals, objectives, and advocacy for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families.



President's Message Page 1 of 18

• Season's Greetings to all MOAA members – and all others who may be reading this Arizona State Council newsletter. It is worth noting that our semiannual newsletters nicely coincide with Memorial Day and Veterans Day. So, as I started my article in our last newsletter by reflecting on Memorial Day and all that it holds dear for us, I want to start this one by reflecting on Veterans Day and a day for us and our entire nation to think of and thank our past and current veterans (all of us) for their unselfish and service and sacrifice. This is also an appropriate time for me to once again say thank you to all of you and your families for what you do to support our veterans in Arizona. One person deserves special acknowledgement: CW3 Harry Bowen (Ret), The Council's Transition Liaison who passed away 23 Nov 2021. Harry had been the Transition Liaison for one month shy of 10 years and was totally dedicated to helping transitioning military/veterans. He will be missed!



President's Message *Page 2 of 18*

• And while on the topic of thanks, even though we are only a month from the end of 2021, I want to also sincerely thank all of you for your accomplishments back in 2020. MOAA releases the results of the Levels of Excellence Awards late in the year and the individual awards even later. As you all know, Arizona really shined (again) and I could not be prouder of you. Here is a recap of Arizona's national-level MOAA awards:

- Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards

- 6 Websites – all 5-Star (Council and Arizona, Coronado, Green Valley, Luke, and Superstition Mountain Chapters).

- 8 Newsletters – all 5-Star (Council and Arizona, Coronado, Grand Canyon, Green Valley, Luke, Northern Arizona, and Superstition Mountain Chapters).

- Levels of Excellence Awards

- 10 5-Star (Council and all nine chapters: Arizona, Coronado, Grand Canyon, Green Valley, Luke, Northern Arizona, Superstition ...



President's Message Page 3 of 18

Mountain, Tucson, and Yuma).

- Individual Awards
 - Col Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair of the Year Award: Col Lee Lange
 - Surviving Spouse of the Year Award: Mrs. Sharon Douglas
- Our Council and its member chapters recently completed two noteworthy events: Our semiannual Council meeting and MOAA's Southwest Regional Leaders Workshop. The following are highlights from both events.
 - Council Meeting (Fall)
 - Prior to the meeting I sent out the Council Bylaws for Council officers and chapter presidents to review. All responded saying no changes were necessary. Pam also sent out the Personal Affairs and Transition presentations.
 - Our previous Council meeting in May of this year was our first in-person gathering in some 18 months. I had originally planned for our >>>



President's Message Page 4 of 18

Nov meeting to also be in-person and hopefully with even more attendees. We were all set for the event thanks to the outstanding planning and coordination by our Council Secretary Pam Wojtas, Vice President LtCol Nicholas Knight (Ret), and Immediate Past President Lt Col Dick Jonas (Ret). LTC Steve Jarvis (Ret), Grand Canyon President, then made a very sensible suggestion to consider holding the meeting in conjunction with the MOAA Southwest Regional Leaders Workshop scheduled just two weeks later. MOAA was very accommodating, but I ultimately realized combining the meetings would be challenging both logistically and for our attendees. So, rather than ask you and others to physically attend two separate in-person meetings withing two weeks, I made the decision to conduct our Council meeting virtually.

- After our last Council meeting, I decided to changeup the two semiannual meetings with the intent of varying the agendas, adding some dedicated training time, and reducing chapter level of effort >>>



President's Message Page 5 of 18

by reducing chapter updates to just once per year. Our recent Nov meeting was the first such “changed” meeting. It was also our Annual Business Meeting. But with the MOAA Workshop just two weeks away, we did not conduct any focused training. As a result, the meeting was shorter than normal and had 20 attendees. You can learn what the meeting included/covered by reading the very thorough minutes Pam provided. Some of the more notable items are highlighted below:

- The total membership as of 1 Nov 2021 for our nine chapters was 1,056 which is a reduction of 23 members since Nov 2020, but an increase of nine since May of this year. An amazing 99% are members of national MOAA. This total member number represents only some 12% of MOAA members in the state meaning we still have a lot of potential chapter members out there.
- The Council approved the proposed budget for 2022. Member chapters unanimously approved maintaining Council dues.



President's Message Page 6 of 18

- I covered the status of our three satellite chapters:
 - The Northern Arizona Chapter has decided to close the Mohave Satellite effective 31 Dec 2021 due to leader succession issues (health) and low participation.
 - The Superstition Mountain Chapter has decided to close the Central Arizona Satellite effective 31 Dec 2021 unless significant increases in membership and participation are realized.
 - The Catalina Mountains Satellite is functioning very well.
- Old Business
 - Council Dues. As stated above, all member chapters approved maintaining Council dues.
 - MOAA New Association Management System (AMS). Learned from the MOAA Workshop that launch expected 2nd quarter of 2022.



President's Message Page 7 of 18

- Council Liability Insurance. I presented results of research and quotes from two companies. Quotes very high when considering Council's exposure. Given the quotes and the fact the Council is incorporated in Arizona, the Council decided to not pursue the insurance.
- Chapter Officer / Leader Training. The plan is to use a variety of sources for the training (phone, virtual online, source documents, Council/chapter subject matter experts (SME), Council meetings, etc.). Such training may be very timely considering the following projected chapter leader changes for 2022—four presidents, two treasures, and four membership chairs.
- New Business
 - Transition Liaison. Before his passing , Harry Bowen had contacted me saying he needed to resign due to his ongoing health issues. I contacted CDR John Chernoski (Ret) and he immediately agreed >>>



President's Message Page 8 of 18

to assume the duties of AZCOC Transition Liaison. John is now officially filling that position.

- Council Financial Threshold. LtCol Nicholas Knight (Ret) suggested – and the Council approved – establishing a threshold of \$7,000 as a trigger point for the Council to take possible corrective actions should its available funds fall below the threshold.

- Action Items. Six actions items resulted from the meeting (four complete and two in progress). I provided the details and status to all chapters on 9 Nov but am reiterating each for your convenience.

1. The Tucson Chapter asked if it is possible to see a breakout of MOAA national membership by age. - I obtained the information from MOAA and provided to all chapter presidents on 9 Nov.

>>Complete<<

2. Two chapters (Tucson and Yuma) said they were not receiving information concerning their members paying chapters dues >>>



President's Message *Page 9 of 18*

using the MOAA online dues payment system.

>>Complete<< *Note: If the issue returns, chapters must follow up to ensure they have properly identified their Primary Contact.*

3. A couple of chapters mentioned their treasurers are not receiving description/reasons for funds transfers from MOAA. - I have previously received similar concerns. I discussed this with MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs and explained this issue has come up several times. MOAA said they will find a solution that will provide chapters with explanations for funds transfers. They expected it will take at least a month to solve this issue.

>>In Progress<<

4. One chapter asked when chapters can expect to receive funds from MOAA Electronic Funds Transfers? - I confirmed that Electronic Funds Transfers are processed on the 5th of each month.

>> Complete<<



President's Message *Page 10 of 18*

5. Clarification was requested regarding the \$15 and \$30 incentives for recruiting PREMIUM or LIFE members (respectively) being only for new or upgraded MOAA members OR if the incentives also apply to existing MOAA members with a paid membership, but new to a chapter? - Per the 2021 Chapter Recruiting Program Guide: "Chapters will earn \$15 for every incentive-qualified PREMIUM member, and \$30 for every incentive-qualified LIFE member who is new or upgrades membership level during the calendar year. **An incentive-qualified member is one who has NOT been a national MOAA member in the preceding three years (except in the case of upgrades).** Incentives will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer in Jan of 2022." I confirmed the incentives are for NEW members of MOAA or UPGRADED members; the important distinction is highlighted in blue text above.

>>Complete<<



President's Message *Page 11 of 18*

6. Concerning the initiative for “Chapter Officer / Leader Training, the Council VP, Lt Col Nicholas Knights suggested it might be good to include lessons learned from outgoing chapter officers and leaders - sort of an Exit Interview. Nicholas agreed to develop an initial draft of proposed questions for the interview/ questionnaire with a target date of 15 Dec 2021. - The Chapter Position Exit Interview was sent to chapter presidents for review/comment on 15 Dec.

>>Complete<<

- MOAA Southwest Regional Leaders Workshop. I provided the following workshop recap to all chapter presidents on 24 Nov but thought it would be helpful for all to have it in our newsletter for future reference.
 - Arizona had a great presence at the subject workshop - 29 council and chapter leaders with all our nine chapters represented. Thank you to those of you who took the time and effort to attend!



President's Message Page 12 of 18

- While I certainly cannot share in one email everything we learned at the workshop, I am providing below a few items I captured that may be of interest to you - most were questions asked by attendees. While we have discussed most of the items during Council meetings and roundtables, we can never communicate such things too often. I only ask you to please share these with your other chapter leaders.

- *How is it decided to which chapter a potential member should join or how the Near Real Time (NRT) list is developed?* The answer is likely already known by most of you, but it is definitely new information for some of your chapter leaders as evidenced by the question asked. I coordinated an updated [Arizona Master Zip Code Table](#) with all chapter presidents in Jul 2020 (previous version was May 2016). I then sent this table to MOAA who uses it for all matters related to chapter catchment areas. The table includes ALL 596 Arizona Zip Codes with each one assigned to one of our nine chapters. The table also shows >>>



President's Message Page 13 of 18

the state-level legislative districts assigned to each chapter.

- *Why can't spouses of current members join MOAA as full members?* This question comes up often. MOAA is an IRS approved tax exempt 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization and must comply with the applicable IRS requirements to maintain the exemption. The requirements state the following: At least 75 percent of its members must be past or present members of the United States Armed Forces. Allowing non-military/veteran spouses to become members would result in MOAA losing its exempt status and would thus result in MOAA having to pay income tax on all its revenue (dues, donations, etc.). The same rationale applies to chapters which are operating as 501(c)(19) Veterans Organizations.

- Does MOAA confirm eligibility of all new members? No, MOAA uses the honor system and depends on the member to provide honest and accurate information when joining. MOAA does >>>



President's Message Page 14 of 18

confirm/investigate on an as-needed basis.

- *Can chapters advertise in their newsletters insurance companies other than MERCER or USAA?* Yes, chapters may advertise whatever they choose as long as such advertisements are in good taste and do not compromise MOAA's standards, Brand, or reputation.
- *Can a Council or chapter invite politicians to speak at a meeting/function?* Yes, but ensure you remind the speaker that MOAA and your chapter are non-partisan organizations. Ensure you do not give the impression of supporting/endorsing a specific candidate or party. A good idea is to at least extend an invitation to the member/ candidate of the other party to give equal time. Remember, as organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political

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President's Message Page 15 of 18

campaign on behalf of (or opposition to) any candidate for public office.

- *May a chapter say “thank you” to a member of Congress for their support (chapter, military/veteran issues, etc.)?* Yes, but just ensure you do not indicate or give the perception of endorsing the member/candidate when doing so.
- *How does a chapter know if a Premium (annual) MOAA member is current on their MOAA dues?* The Committee Module (CM) does not show such status, but you can simply tell if a member is current by looking at the CM. If the member is a Premium member and current on dues, the Membership column will show “Regular Annual Membership” and if the member is lapsed (not current on dues) the Membership column will show Regular Basic Membership or will be blank. MOAA’s current policy for lapsed members is to place them in Basic Membership. MOAA did say the new Association Management System version of the CM will possibly include actual status of

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President's Message Page 16 of 18

annual members concerning expirations dates.

- *Does MOAA have a sample recruiting letter that chapters may use?*

Yes, MOAA developed an MS Word template for chapters to use. It is available under “Chapter Recruiting Email” and “Use this template” at the following link: [Chapter Recruiting Email](#) – FYI: I sent this sample email template to all of our chapter presidents on 13 Apr 2021.

- *What is the status of the new Committee Module (CM)?*

Unfortunately, MOAA’s new Association Management System (AMS) will likely not come online until the 2nd quarter of 2022. The new AMS will include the new version of the CM.

- *What is the status of the new MOAA Store?*

The new store should be open by the end of the 1st Quarter 2022, but a temporary online store is currently available for ROTC medals and certificates at there following link: [Temp MOAA Store](#). Only ROTC certificates are

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President's Message Page 17 of 18

currently available. However, you can download fillable ROTC and JRTOC certificates form the MOAA website at the following link: [ROTC/JROTC Certificates](#).

- *Is it possible to get more copies of the Workshop Leaders Workbook?* Yes. The Workbook for the Southwest Regional Leaders Workshop will shortly be available under "Council and Chapter Leaders Workshop Resources" and "Click here to download" at the following link: [Chapter Leaders Workshop Resources](#) - You will need to use your [moaa.org](#) login to download the workbook.

- *Overuse of the acronym MOAA.* A suggestion was made to emphasize using whenever possible the Association's full title of Military Officers Association of America rather than the acronym MOAA. This is a great idea and already practiced by most of you.

- *Promotion Code for those joining MOAA online.* When a new member joins MOAA online, they can use the promotion code >>>



President's Message Page 18 of 18

“GRASSROOTS” and receive a 10% discount.

- The above referenced workshop Leaders Workbook will provide you with a lot more beneficial topics and details. Also, encourage all your chapter leaders to make use of the Workbook - it is a great reference.
- I hope the above information is helpful. In closing, I ask just two things of our chapter presidents:
 1. Please share the information in this newsletter with all your chapter leaders and members. The easiest way is to simply forward the newsletter to all your members and share the link to our Council's website: azcouncilofchapters.org.
 2. ***Invite me to your chapter meetings so I can meet your members and share all things MOAA.***

Peter Kloeber
AZCOC President



Legislative Chair *Page 1 of 6*

- Federal Legislation

- [H.R.4350 - National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\) for FY 2022](#)

- The Administration strongly supports enactment of an NDAA for a 61st consecutive year and is grateful for the strong, bipartisan work this year by the House Armed Services Committee on behalf of America's national defense. A strong economy is critical to ensuring our Nation is positioned for strategic competition, and investments in diplomacy, development, and economic statecraft enhance the effectiveness of national defense spending and promote national security. Use this link for an [NDAA for FY 2022 Summary](#) in PDF.

- The Senate Armed Services Committee filed the NDAA on 22 Sep 2021. The committee voted to [advance](#) the bill on Jul 22 by a vote of 23-3. The House version of the NDAA passed on 2 Sep by a vote of 316-113. The Senate NDAA is filed as amendment #3867 to H.R.4350, the House version of the NDAA. Senate began their discussions on 29 Nov 2021.



Legislative Chair *Page 2 of 6*

- The substitute [supports](#) a total of \$777.9 billion in fiscal year 2022 funding for national defense. This includes \$740.3 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD) and \$20.1 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration in the Department of Energy. The substitute authorizes a 2.7% pay increase for DOD employees, requires women to register for the Selective Service System, and extends parental leave to 12 weeks for servicemembers. The substitute would ban the transfer of Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) detainees to the United States and prohibit closure of GTMO until 31 Dec 2022. It makes a number of reforms to the way the military handles sexual assault and harassment by including [S.1520](#), the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act of 2021. The House version of the NDAA includes provisions on the handling of sexual assault that differ significantly from the Senate version. The substitute does not include an “overseas contingency” fund.



Legislative Chair *Page 3 of 6*

- Both the House and Senate NDAA authorize an approximately \$25 billion dollar increase over the president's proposed defense budget. The increase reflects bipartisan consensus that the U.S. defense budget needs additional funding to meet the threats and challenges we face. Congress has passed the NDAA for 60 years running.
- Significant difference in the House Versions of H.R. 4350 and Senate version which is being debated. As of 28 Oct 2021, there were 967 proposed amendments to H.R. 4350. You can find more information on [FY 2022 NDAA Amendment Tracker](#).
- The House passed [S.1605 - NDAA for FY 2022](#) by a vote of 363/70 on 7 Dec 2021; the bill is still pending Senate action (as of 11 Dec 2021)
- MOAA closely follows the NDAA, an annual bill authorizing DoD to establish new programs and modify existing ones,
 - Toxic Exposure Reform – The focus is on helping veterans of the Gulf War and the War on Terror who have developed illnesses

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Legislative Chair *Page 4 of 6*

related to likely burn pit exposure in Southwest Asia and the Middle East. Key bills are [S.437](#) + [H.R.2436](#) and [S.927](#) + [H.R.2127](#).

- Parity for TRICARE Young Adults – This effort seeks to change the basic TRICARE benefit to allow coverage for children of military members to age 26 without separate premiums as required now. Key legislation is [H.R.475](#).

- Basic Needs Allowance – This initiative would establish a new Basic Needs Allowance to help junior servicemembers (E-1 to E-3) with families who currently qualify for federal Food Stamp and SNAP assistance programs. 10,000 servicemembers would qualify for this benefit. The benefit would end when the member's income from promotions exceeds 130% of the poverty line. Key legislation includes [S.1488](#) and [H.R.2339](#).

- Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act ([H.R.2214](#) + [S.1669](#)) – This initiative will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the >>>



Legislative Chair Page 5 of 6

next 12 months and have an opportunity to request debt forgiveness.

- National Cemetery Eligibility – [Proposed Revised Eligibility Criteria](#)
- Arizona State Legislation
 - The Governor’s budget supported income tax exemption for military retired pay and benefits for Uniformed Services; his goal is to make Arizona the most military friendly state
 - The Legislature approved adding 12 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Veteran Benefit Counselors to the Department of Veteran Services
 - Seed money was approved for a State Veterans home in Mohave County
 - Fifty-fifth Legislature Second Session will convene 10 Jan 2022
 - AZCOC Supported legislation
 - Income tax parity for Active Duty UPHS and NOAA personnel
 - Disabled veterans' property tax exemption



Legislative Chair Page 6 of 6

- Amend HOA Statute to allow Space Force flag
- Relief for Guard/Reserve students who miss class due to “military duty”
- Grassroots Support. What can I (you) do to cause change?
 - Federal: Meet with your representative when they are home. Attend the town halls. Know the local staffers. Respond to MOAA calls for advocacy.
 - Arizona: Know your representatives
 - Schedule a face-to-face meeting
 - Get their cell phone (use sparingly)
 - Use RTS “request to speak” to follow bills
 - Contact info links: [Find My Legislator](#), [AZ House of Representatives](#), and [AZ Senate](#)

Darren Venters
AZCOC Legislative Liaison



Treasurer

Again this year, the Council finances have remained largely static; there was little travel to reimburse, and the annual meeting was not held in person. The Council received a nice grant from MOAA National to be used for annual meetings, as well as a stipend for ZOOM membership which, taken together with the annual collection of dues, resulted in a very healthy balance for the year. I anticipate that 2022 will be much more normal. Accordingly, the Council approved an expanded budget which will allow for in-person meetings and anticipates greater travel by the president and vice president.

The Council also approved annual dues collection, and I will be getting with Pam right after the first of the year to get the numbers to send to you.

Charlie Bitner
AZCOC Treasurer



Secretary *Page 1 of 2*

Council Officers and Staff, Past Council Presidents, Chapter Presidents, and Satellite Presidents – For planning purposes, mark your calendar with the dates for our 2022 AZCOC meetings. Spring: A social or dinner will be held on Thursday, 5 May 2022, and the council meeting will be on Friday, 6 May 2022. The location will be The Colonnade, 19116 Colonnade Way, Surprise, AZ 85374. More information will be provided after the first of the year. Fall: A social or dinner will be held on Thursday, 3 Nov 2022 and the meeting on Friday, 4 Nov 2022. The location The Colonnade.

As most of you are aware, I maintain our master roster which lists the Council Officers and Staff, Past Council Presidents, Chapter Presidents, Satellite Presidents, and the officers for each Chapter and Satellite. The information on this roster is only as good as the information given to me. I'm asking for your help in keeping the roster up-to-date. If you change your address, telephone number, email address or any other information, please send me the changes. Also, for Chapter Presidents and Satellite Presidents, ...



Secretary Page 2 of 2

please let me know if you have changes to your officer positions or if any of the information listed for your officer positions changes. I appreciate your assistance in keeping the master roster current. Thank you.

Pam Wojtas
AZCOC Secretary



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 1 of 6

- [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#)

- Currently 176 Surviving Spouse members from 36 states
- Meetings are held the third Tues of each month and alternate between a business meeting and a social meeting; the next meeting is 18 Jan.
- Gayle Joyce, MOAA Board member and Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member gave an outstanding presentation last month at the National MOAA Regional Leadership Meeting in San Diego; her topics included how to prepare to be a Surviving Spouse before it occurs and which actions to take now to be best prepared for later.
- The Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse certificate and lapel pin were created by DOD to recognize the surviving spouse of anyone who gave their lives in active duty in the US Armed Forces between 1 Nov 1955 and 15 May 1975. For more info and/or to place an order, please contact Judith Thomas at 719-331-8485.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 2 of 6

- Info for Surviving Spouse of USCG, USCGR, NOAA and PHS
 - Different branches of the military have different processes, different issues, and different paperwork.
 - Some useful tools and information for Surviving Spouses of USCG, USCGR, NOAA, and PHS Retirees can be found in the PPCPUB 1800 at <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/portals/10/cg-1/ppc/ras/survivorguide.pdf>; if you know of other useful publications for the various military branches regarding Surviving Spouses, please let me know.
- COLA Increase for 2022
 - The Social Security cost-of-living adjustment for 2022 will be 5.9% for 2022. This is the COLA for SBP, DIC and SSIA too.
 - The annual increase will be the highest in about 40 years.
 - Doing my math, unofficially, the new DIC flat rate amount will be \$1437.66 and the new offset to SBP will be \$479.22 in 2022. SSIA is >>>



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 3 of 6

\$327 and will go up to \$346. Everyone's Social Security and SBP are different so I cannot calculate that. You can simply take your gross from 2021 and multiply it by 5.9% or .059 to get your new amount.

- Beneficiaries With Expired ID Cards: Renew Now!!!
 - The DoD extended the deadlines several times, most recently in Jun.
 - Under the latest guidance, dependents of active-duty, Guard and Reserve members whose ID cards expired before 31 Jul 2021, had until 31 Oct 2021, to get a new ID card; more on that if its extended again.
 - Retirees and family members whose cards expired before the end of Jul face a deadline of 31 Jan 2022.
 - Beneficiaries whose cards expired after 31 Jul 2021, and who haven't yet renewed, should do so immediately or face the loss of benefits (with the exception of health care.
 - ID card office locations can be found and appointments made on the DoD's ID Card Office website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 4 of 6

- Tricare Approved Pharmacy Changes for 2022
 - CVS will rejoin the TRICARE pharmacy network as of 15 Dec, while Walmart and Sam's Club will leave the network at the same time. With the change, military families will have access to the two largest chain drugstores in the US—Walgreens and CVS—together with many smaller chains and independent pharmacies.
 - Beneficiaries who get prescriptions filled at Walmart or Sam's Club will receive a letter notifying them of the change. The letter will include three local TRICARE network pharmacies they might consider using instead, together with suggestions on how to transfer prescriptions most easily to another retail pharmacy, home delivery, or a military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacy.
 - Families who fill prescriptions at Walmart or Sam's Club will need to move them to another TRICARE network pharmacy location by 15 Dec.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 5 of 6

- 2022 TRICARE Pharmacy Copay Information
 - As of 1 Jan, copays for prescription drugs will increase as follows:
 - TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery (Up to a 90-Day Supply)
 - Generic formulary drugs: from \$10 to \$12
 - Brand-name formulary drugs: from \$29 to \$34
 - Non-formulary drugs: from \$60 to \$68
 - TRICARE Retail Network Pharmacies (Up to a 30-Day Supply)
 - Generic formulary drugs: from \$13 to \$14
 - Brand-name formulary drugs: from \$33 to \$38
 - Non-formulary drugs: from \$60 to \$68
 - Prescriptions obtained at military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies still have zero out-of-pocket cost.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 6 of 6

- [H.R.3402 - Caring for Survivors Act of 2021](#)
 - This bill increases the monthly rate of dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses through the VA.
 - The bill also adjusts the amount payable to surviving spouses and children of veterans who were rated as totally disabled for a period of less than 10 years before their death.
 - Latest Action: House - 08/02/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
 - Contact your representatives and let them know you support this bill
- As always, if you have any questions or have anything you would like to add to the next Surviving Spouse Update, please let me now; my contact info is: Sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com / 928-899-6655

Sharon Douglas
AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison



Personal Affairs Officer Page 1 of 3

The National Do Not Call Registry

Most of us receive a half dozen or so spam phone calls daily on our land lines/cell phones. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) maintains a *National Do Not Call Registry* that you can easily sign up for at www.donotcall.gov. It's important to note that even after you register, *other types of organizations can still call, such as charities, political groups, debt collectors and surveys*. I'm signed up, but admittedly, I still receive a few spam calls...but having a lot less of them is definitely a huge improvement. To learn more, please read the FTC's [Frequently Asked Questions](#); the following are just a few examples:

- *How do I add my number to the Registry?* Go to their website or call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236) from the phone you want to register.
- *Will the Registry stop all unwanted calls?* No. The Do Not Call Registry stops sales calls from real companies. The Registry is a list that tells telemarketers what numbers not to call. The FTC does not and can not block calls. Also, the Registry can't stop calls from scammers who ignore it. One >>>



Personal Affairs Officer *Page 2 of 3*

reason people get a lot of unwanted calls is because it's easy and cheap for scammers to call people anywhere in the world. To get fewer unwanted calls, look into [blocking unwanted calls](#). There are different call-blocking and call-labeling options for cell phones, traditional landlines, and home phones that make calls over the internet (VoIP). You can find a list of some call-blocking and call-labeling apps for cell phones at ctia.org, a website for the U.S. wireless communications industry. For company-specific information about blocking calls on landlines and phones that use the internet, go to the [FCC's Call Blocking Resources](#).

- *Can a company still call me with a sales pitch?* Yes. Companies can call you if you've recently done business with them, or if you've given them written permission to call. But if you ask them not to call you, they have to stop. Be sure to write down the date you asked them to stop.

- *Are any other types of calls still allowed under FTC rules if I'm on the Registry?* Yes. The rules allow: political calls, purely informational calls, >>>



Personal Affairs Officer Page 3 of 3

surveys, [charitable calls](#), and [debt collection calls](#)—but these calls cannot also include a sales pitch.

- *What about robocalls?* If a [robocall](#)—a call that plays a recorded message—is selling something, it’s illegal unless the company trying to sell you something got written permission, directly from you, to call you for that purpose. So, if you haven’t given the company permission, and the robocall isn’t purely informational—like your cable company confirming a service appointment—there’s a good chance it’s a scam. At the very least, it’s probably a company you don’t want to do business with. If you get an illegal robocall, hang up. Don’t press buttons to be taken off a call list or to talk to a live person. It might lead to more unwanted calls. Instead, you should [report it to the FTC](#). Learn more about robocalls at ftc.gov/robocalls.

John Chernoski

AZCOC Personal Affairs Officer



Chapter Development Page 1 of 3

- The goal is to form new chapters
- New satellite chapters must be initiated by a host chapter in the catchment area
- Prospective satellite chapters need a strong nucleus of energetic and dedicated people - Grand Canyon Chapter is a perfect example of successful Satellite to Chapter transition
- Support and nurturing for new satellite chapters continually important
- Recovering from the pandemic
 - Explore options for returning to regular scheduled in-person meetings
 - Work toward recouping pre-COVID meeting attendance
 - Recruiting new members
 - Make effective use of the Near Real Time (NRT) list
 - Encourage word of mouth advertising by members



Chapter Development *Page 2 of 3*

- Mohave Satellite (host Northern Arizona Chapter)
 - 14 Members
 - Issues with leader succession (health), meetings suspended
 - Host chapter decision to close effective 31 Dec 2021
 - Members invited to participate with host chapter
 - MOAA has been notified
- Central Arizona Satellite (host Superstition Mountain Chapter)
 - 11 Members
 - Issues with leader succession, meeting attendance, and activity
 - Host chapter addressing viability and future of the satellite
 - Satellite to close 1 Jan 2022 unless significant increase in membership
- Catalina Mountains Satellite (host Tucson Chapter)
 - 51 Members



Chapter Development Page 3 of 3

- Strong leadership, good meeting attendance, energetic/active
- Ready to advance...if and when leadership and members so desire

Ron Perkins/Dick Jonas

AZCOC Chapter Development Committee



Transition Liaison Page 1 of 4

With Harry Bowen's passing, I stepped up to be the Council's Transition Liaison. Harry and I were planning to have a sit down to discuss the MOAA Transition program. Unfortunately, time and circumstances did not allow that to happen, so I am flying a bit blind. I request that each chapter email me the contact info for your chapter's Transition chair and provide info as what your chapter is doing regarding MOAA Transition. "Nothing" is an acceptable answer. For example, Green Valley Chapter is in a retirement area and the interest in full-time employment, or a second career is essentially non-existent. However, change the question a bit to include volunteer activity and most folks in the room are likely involved in some sort of volunteer activity. Yes, we are "working," but in a nontraditional way. Please share any significant volunteer activities your members are involved with. Couple this with familiarity with MOAA's transition program and we should be ready to go when the MOAA transition inquiry comes our way.

As an aside, is your Chapter a local chamber of commerce member? It is a great way to make contacts with the business community and to keep abreast of economic opportunities.



Transition Liaison Page 2 of 4

- What is a Transition Liaison (TL)?
 - A TL is the successor to the former The Officer Placement Service (TOPS)
 - This program was established to provide all MOAA members and their Spouses with another venue for job research and placement
 - The mission of MOAA TL is to compile, publicize, and disseminate job opportunities via its network of industry, MOAA chapters, military leaders, veteran service organizations, and other MOAA stakeholders.
 - In Summary, the MOAA TL mission is to provide Professional Guidance and Support for MOAA Members & Spouses in Job Transition
- What is the AZ TL?
 - The AZ TL Organization is comprised of 40+ business/industry executives and other professionals who routinely provide notices of job opportunities in their areas to post to the former MOAA TOPS1 database
 - MOAA TL AZ is an arm of National MOAA that serves the AZ community



Transition Liaison Page 3 of 4

- MOAA AZ operates a [website](#) for posting information of interest to our stakeholders
- If you have information you want to share, send that information to me and I will have it posted on the website
- TL Services Provided
 - Provide local networking contacts for MOAA members and spouses in job/career transition
 - Each chapter is viewed as a primary career and geographic resource
 - Each Chapter provides needed “sponsor” assistance
 - Provide Job Listings on the website for access to the membership
 - Provide career related links and information for the membership in transitioning to civilian workforce as well as pertinent military and retired changes in benefits



Transition Liaison Page 4 of 4

- Provide Career Fair Listings
- Serve the membership with Networking Contacts
- National Resources Available
 - MOAA Career Center Website: www.moaa.org/careers
 - Linked In (Join MOAA Career Networking Group)
- Arizona Resources Available
 - Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide
 - Arizona MOAA Website: moatopsaz.org
 - AZCOC TL Contact Information (John Chernoski): jchernoski@cox.net /
Cell: 520-204-3933



ESGR Liaison Page 1 of 4

- Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR), what's in it for the Servicemember?
 - Employer Outreach. Promote a culture where all employers support and value military service through education, recognition, and mediation
 - Military Outreach. Make servicemembers aware of their rights and responsibilities under the law and the value of employer support and recognition
 - Employment Services. Increase career opportunities through strategic relationships with employers, state and Federal partners, and professional associations
 - Ombudsman Services. Provide informal, neutral mediation for issues/conflicts between employers and servicemembers before they escalate
- Service Member Responsibilities
 - Provide advanced notice to employer (verbal or written)



ESGR Liaison Page 2 of 4

- Leave a civilian job for fulfillment of military obligations
- If on extended active duty, receive a qualifying military separation (served honorably)
- Serve for no more than five cumulative years away from the workplace, excluding exceptions
- Notify employer of intent to return to work in accordance with USERRA guidelines
- Employer Responsibilities
 - Allow military leave of absence
 - Reinstatement employee promptly
 - Restore employee seniority
 - Reinstatement employment benefits
 - Provide training or refreshing of skills



ESGR Liaison *Page 3 of 4*

- Do not discriminate or retaliate
- What Protections Do Servicemembers Have?
 - The Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a Federal statute that protects Service members' and veterans' civilian employment rights.
 - An employer must not deny initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment to an individual on the basis of his or her membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed Services.
 - Among other things, under certain conditions, USERRA...
 - Requires employers to put individuals back to work in their civilian jobs after military service.
 - Restores employees who engage in military service to the same >>>



ESGR Liaison Page 4 of 4

level of seniority, status, and pay ordinarily attained if they were not called up for military service.

- Protects Service members from discrimination in the workplace based on their military service or affiliation.
- ESGR Employer Awards

[Service Member Patriot Award](#)

[Spouse Patriot Award](#)

[Seven Seals Award](#)

[Above and Beyond Award](#)

[Pro Patria Award](#)

[Extraordinary Employer Support Award](#)

[Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award](#)

John Chernoski

AZCOC ESGR Liaison



Topics of Interest *Page 1 of 2*

- Chapter Membership. As of 1 Nov 2021, total membership for our nine chapters was 1,056 which is a reduction of 23 members since Nov 2020, but an increase of nine since May of this year.
- MOAA Membership. All nine chapters remain above the 95% threshold for members belonging to national MOAA. The total for all chapters remained at 99%. Especially noteworthy is that five chapters and all three satellite chapters are at 100%.
- MOAA Grants. Arizona chapters represent just 2.4% of all MOAA chapters and received more than their fair share of MOAA grants.
 - Community Outreach Grants – 4 (12%) of 33 grants for a total of some \$12,500 (Arizona, Grand Canyon, Luke, and Tucson Chapters).
 - COVID-19 Relief Grants – 3 (18%) of 17 grants for a total of \$5,000 (Grand Canyon, Luke, and Tucson Chapters).
- Chapter Governance. Just a reminder that all chapters should have their pertinent documents and know where they are located. Examples: Arizona >>>



Topics of Interest Page 2 of 2

incorporation documents, IRS tax exempt status, MOAA charter, bylaws, annual tax returns (990s), etc.



AZCOC Meeting Information

- Spring 2022: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 6 May 2021 with a social/or dinner the evening prior on 5 May. Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ
- Fall 2022: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 4 Nov 2021 with a social/or dinner the evening prior on 3 Nov. Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ



Photo Gallery

Photo Gallery images provided by Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, Nicholas Knight, & National MOAA



**AZCOC Meeting
3 May 2019**



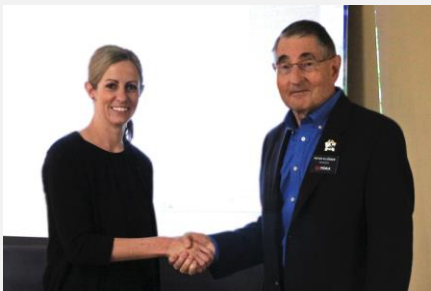
**AZCOC Meeting
7 May 2021**



**Arizona State
Veterans Home
(Yuma)**



**National MOAA
LOE Presentation
15 Oct 2021**



**AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2019**



Pending



Helpful Links *Page 1 of 2*

- [AZCOC Chapter Position Responsibilities Guide](#)
- [Take Action - MOAA Advocacy Information](#)
- [MOAA National Homepage](#)
- [MOAA Publications](#)
- [MOAA Councils and Chapters](#)
- [MOAA TOPS Arizona](#)
- [Opt-in for the MOAA Newsletter](#)
- [MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide](#)
- [Arizona Department of Veterans Services \(AZDVS\)](#)
- [Arizona Be Connected](#)
- [Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society \(AVHOFS\)](#)
 - [AVHOFS Copper Sword / Copper Eagle Nomination Criteria and Forms](#)
- [Unified Arizona Veterans \(UAV\)](#)
- [Veterans Administration Regional Office - Phoenix](#)



Helpful Links *Page 2 of 2*

- [VA Medical Center - Phoenix](#)
- [State Veterans Home - Tucson](#)
- [State Veterans Home - Phoenix](#)
- [Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System \(Tucson VA Medical Center\)](#)
- [Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System \(Prescott VA Hospital\)](#)
- [Arizona Military Family Relief Fund](#)
- [VA Benefits Administration Links](#)
- [How to obtain a copy of DD-214 on the Internet](#)
- [Veterans Asbestos and Mesothelioma](#)



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Council Member Directory *Page 2 of 2*

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