



**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Arizona Council of Chapters**

**0800 Hours, Friday, 4 November 2022**

**IN-PERSON MEETING HELD AT THE COLONNADE IN SURPRISE, AZ**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Arizona Council of Chapters:**

**President and National MOAA BOD:**

Col Peter Kloeber

**Vice President & Newsletter Editor:**

Lt Col Nicholas Knight

**Secretary and Membership:** Mrs. Pam Wojtas

**Treasurer:** Col Charles Bitner

**Legislative Affairs:** Lt Col Darren Venters

**Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and  
President Northern Arizona Chapter:**

Mrs. Sharon Douglas

**Past President:** Col Gary Fredricks

**Past President:** Ken Yamanouchi

**President:** Col Tom Sheets

**President:** CAPT Chuck Vaughan

**President:** LCDR Jim Clenney

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** LTC Ed Wozniak

**Guest:** Mrs. Kaylee Nix-Wozniak

**President:** LTC Steve Jarvis

**Legislative Chair and Director:**

Col Tom Waddell

**Surviving Spouse Liaison and Assistant**

**Membership Chair:** Lt Col Joyce Kloeber

**President:** 1LT Elliot Jones

**1<sup>st</sup> V.P. and Membership Chair:**

CW03 Jack Bundy

**President:** Maj Gene Wikle

**Secretary and Compliance:** Col Mike Kramer

**Director at Large:** Lt Gen John Regni

**Director At Large:** COL Jerry Wojtas

**President:** Lt Col John Bushko

**Arizona Chapter:**

**Catalina Mountains Chapter:**

**Coronado Chapter:**

**Grand Canyon Chapter:**

**Green Valley Chapter:**

**Luke Chapter:**

**Superstition Mountain Chapter:**

**Tucson Chapter:**

**President:** Col William Wojciechowski  
**Surviving Spouse and Personal Affairs:**  
Mrs. Polly Parks

**Yuma Chapter:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Mrs. Linda Matthias

**Guest Speaker:**

**CEO & President MOAA:** Lt Gen Dana Atkins

### **Administration**

**Call to Order:** Col Peter Kloeber called the meeting to order at 0805.

**Invocation:** The invocation was given by CDR Jim Clenney, Coronado Chapter President

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Pam Wojtas led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **President's Opening Comments/Into of Guests – Col Pete Kloeber**

- Welcome
  - Col Pete Kloeber welcomed everyone to our semi-annual meeting and thanked them for attending.
  - Col Kloeber said it was good seeing everyone who attended the social and dinner the evening prior, some who are here today and others that only attended last night.
  - Col Kloeber said that there were several attendees present who had not been to a council meeting before and had all attendees introduce themselves and state their chapter and job.
- Housekeeping
  - Col Kloeber asked that cell phones be placed on vibrate.
- Voting – 4 Votes
  - Council Officers
  - Chapter Presidents/Delegates
  - Immediate Past Council President
- Introductions
  - Col Kloeber introduced our two dignitaries; Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President/CEO of MOAA and Lt Gen John Regni who just came off the BOD of MOAA. Lt Gen Regni is also a member of the Luke Chapter.

### **In Memoriam – Col Pete Kloeber**

- Col Kloeber stated that he normally has not recognized the passing of individuals, but that there have been some very recent deaths which he wanted to acknowledge.
  - Terri Wojciechowski
    - Wife of Bill Wojciechowski, Col, USAF (Ret) – President, Tucson Chapter
  - Ed Mangan, Capt., USAF (Ret)
    - Past President, Superstition Mountain Chapter
    - AVHOFS Member

- Bob Strain, Col, USAF (Ret) – Coronado Chapter
- Pat Lynch
  - Wife of Joe Lynch, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret) – MOAA Legal Counsel

**Speaker – Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) – MOAA President/CEO**

Lt Gen Atkins had a few comments before his slide presentation (see slide presentation below comments).

Lt Gen Atkins acknowledged Lt Gen John Regni and thanked him for his service on the MOAA Board. He stated that Lt Gen Regni had developed a very useful and thorough 5-year strategic plan.

Lt Gen Atkins commented on getting new members both in MOAA and Chapters. He said you need to share your story. Tell the prospect all that MOAA and your individual chapter does for them and for their family. He stated that everyone needs to be an ambassador. He also stated that visibility and awareness are essential to building membership at the national and chapter level.

Lt Gen Atkins commented that advocacy is the strength of councils and chapters. He stated that councils and chapters are able to contact, meet, their individual legislators, go to their offices, whereas MOAA cannot. He stated councils and chapters are the voice of MOAA. Lt Gen Atkins said that as of now Advocacy in Action will be in-person in April. The goal is to reach all 535 offices.

Lt Gen Atkins stated that MOAA is the “TOP Lobbyist in DC” for the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Lt Gen Atkins commented that some of the priorities MOAA will address with the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress are compensation and service-ended benefits, housing and barracks, health care, and benefits for veterans. He stated that the HR 4591 bill would enable your health care records to be sent automatically to the VA upon your leaving the military. He also stated that many barracks are in need of repair, upgrading. He said the most disgraceful barracks are where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers live. There’s mold, no air.

Lt Gen Atkins commented on Arlington National Cemetery. He stated that if the rules currently being considered go through, even he would not be eligible to be buried at Arlington. He stated that individuals who have not yet been born would get in over some people currently in the room. Lt Gen Atkins said MOAA is continuing engagement with the Secretary of the Army and working on legislation to be introduced in 2023. He said that Quantico is being looked at as an additional burial ground. He stated that the Marines want it as does the VA.

Lt Gen Atkins commented that military spouses are the most under employed. A tax credit program might be a solution. Bills introduced on this are HR 2974 and S 3909.

Lt Gen Atkins said that child care is the number one issue with young families. They have no one to watch their children. The Child Care Fee Assistance increased from \$1,500 to \$1,700 per month in October.

Col Gary Fredricks asked Lt Gen Atkins if he sees Virtual Chapters growing and Lt Gen Atkins said yes.

Col Mike Kramer asked Lt Gen Atkins if he had heard anything on bringing back the draft. Lt Gen Atkins said it had been looked at, but at this time it will be left as it is currently.

Col Pete Kloeber told Lt Gen Atkins that the Council and Chapters had donated \$3,000 in his name to the Crisis Relief Fund.

Lt Gen Atkins presented Col Pete Kloeber a crystal cube, thanking him for all his work as council president.

### **Let's Start Here – Advocacy Matters**

- SFC Heath Robinson PACT Act
- House passed 342-88 on July 13
- Senate passed 86-11 on August 2
- President Biden signed the PACT Act on August 10
- VA accepting claims now and will begin processing in January

### **Advocacy**

- Grassroots
- Recent successes
- Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Legislative News for Health
- Legislative News for DoD
- MOAA's Legislative Action Center

### **Grassroots**

- Your state work translates to national successes
  - Successful engagements build relationships and enhance MOAA's credibility at home and abroad
  - Advocacy is highlighted in our magazine – we send copies to Congress and their staffs
- Your national engagement is widely noticed
  - Visibility and awareness are essential to building membership at the chapter and national level
  - Congress also gets your letters, and phone calls; while our GR team spends a good portion of their time working with key staffers
  - We could not do our jobs without you

## Recent Successes

- FY 2022 NDAA: Pay raise at 2.6%, established Basic Needs Allowance, improved child development centers.
- Equal incentive-pay for reserve components.
- Housing: Congress directed housing assessment; DoD issued BAH increase.
- Health care: Achieved another halt to billet cuts and increased oversight; included mental health scheduler pilot, improved appeals process, and expanded prenatal care
- Arizona Income Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay.
  - Passed June 30, 2021: Lt Gen Regni, USAF (Ret) noted the heavy lifting from Darren Venters and Pete Kloeber and likely a host of other supporters.

## Recent Successes

- FY 2023 NDAA: Pay raise at 4.6%; DoD initiated fiscal policies to support the troops and their families
- Housing challenges, oversight, and a continued emphasis on housing and barracks
- Stand-alone bill: S 2794 Supporting Families of the Fallen Act – raises SGLI/VGLI from \$400K to \$500K
- VA Legislation: Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act – impacting 3.5 million veterans
- H.R. 4591 – VA electronic health record oversight; H.R. 5754, patient advocacy tracker
- S. 2533, Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act

## Priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Compensation and service-earned benefits
- Housing and barracks
- Health care for currently serving and retirees
- Health care and benefits for veterans
- Families of our uniformed services
- Survivors
- Guard and Reserves

## Legislative News – Health

- No new TRICARE fees/increases
  - Biennial pharmacy copay increases set through 2028; some enrollment fees and copays are indexed annually by military retiree COLA
- Approximately 15K independent pharmacies cut from TRICARE network as of October 24
- More restrictive prior authorization policies for some prescription drugs – coordinating letter to OSD/DHA with Representative Wenstrup's office

## Legislative News – DoD

- ANC Update
  - We continue engagement with the Secretary of the Army, and we are working on legislation to be introduced in 2023. Look for:
    - *Expanding America's National Cemetery Act*
- Military Spouse Hiring Act
  - Strong bipartisan support for Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program as a solution.
    - H.R. 2974 – 262 cosponsors
    - S. 3909 – 47 cosponsors
- Working with Ways and Means to include in end-of-year tax extender package.

## Legislative News – DoD

- Secretary Changed Policies to Support Troops
  - Basic Needs Allowance – January 2023
  - BAH increase for 28 housing areas – October 2022
  - DECA pricing adjustments to assure 25% savings
  - TLE increase from 10 to 15 days for CONUS; up to 60 days where housing is short – October 2022
  - DLA increase for E-1 to E-6 and paid one month prior to PCS move – October 2022
  - Military Spouse Fellowship Pilot – January 2023
  - Increased Child Care Fee Assistance from \$1,500 to \$1,700/month – October 2022

## Quorum Sign-up: [moaa.org](http://moaa.org) → Advocacy → Legislative Action Center

- Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

## Advocacy in Action

- Method: In-Person April 26, 2023
  - Councils & Chapters to fill the ranks
  - Goal is to reach all 535 offices
  - Some virtual preparations and pre-meetings
- Topics
  - TBD: depending on current NDAA, goals for the 188<sup>th</sup> Congress, and President's Budget expected in February
  - Possibly high on our scope
    - Active Duty: pay raise at ECI; and 100% BAH
    - Families and Retired: TRICARE pharmacy access
    - Prep for future legislation: mental health access and fees
  - Will be approved by the Board in January/February

Following Lt Gen Atkins presentation, Col Pete Kloeber told Lt Gen Atkins that the Council and Chapters had donated \$3,000 in his name to the Crisis Relief Fund.

**MOAA Awards for 2021 – Arizona Shines Bright – Col Pete Kloeber**

**MOAA Individual Awards – Col Pete Kloeber & Lt Gen Dana Atkins**

**Surviving Spouse Liaison of the Year Award – 2021**

- Col Pete Kloeber and Lt Gen Dana Atkins presented Mrs. Sharon Douglas the Surviving Spouse Liaison of the Year Award for 2021.

**MOAA Levels of Excellence Awards**

**MOAA – Wide**

- 5-Star
  - Councils = 18 (53%) -1 AZ
  - Chapters = 132 (37%) -11 AZ = 9 (100%)
- 4-Star
  - Councils = 0 Same
  - Chapters = 11 +11
- Total 161 (41%) -1  
(161 submissions = -13 from previous year)
- Total affiliates: 34 Councils and 358 Chapters

**Arizona**

- Ten Affiliates = Ten 5-Star LOE Awards
- 5-Star Clean Sweep = 11<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year
- Many of our chapters have earned a 5-Star LOE for even more years
  - 16 = Luke
  - 13 = Arizona, Coronado, Green Valley, Tucson
  - 12 = Superstition Mountain, Yuma
- Arizona represents 2% of all affiliates and 7% of 5-Stars
- Certificates and Streamer Pins
- Council of Chapters 5-Star
- Arizona Chapter 5-Star
- Coronado Chapter 5-Star
- Grand Canyon Chapter 5-Star
- Green Valley Chapter 5-Star
- Luke Chapter 5-Star
- Northern Arizona Chapter 5-Star
- Superstition Mountain Chapter 5-Star
- Tucson Chapter 5-Star
- Yuma Chapter 5-Star

At the end of Col Kloeber's presentation on awards, Lt Gen Atkins presented Col Pete Kloeber a crystal cube, thanking him for all his work as council president.

## **Reports of Officers**

### **Secretary – Mrs. Pam Wojtas**

- Approval of Minutes of Meeting 6 May 2022 (**Vote #1**) – Mrs. Wojtas stated that she received no corrections or additions to the minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion was made by Lt Col Darren Venters to approve the minutes and seconded by Lt Col John Bushko. Motion passed
- Confirm Meeting Attendance – Mrs. Wojtas confirmed that there was a quorum.
- Chapter Officers Roster Update – Prior to the Council meeting, Mrs. Wojtas emailed a copy of the AZCOC Master Roster to the Council Officers and Staff, Chapter Presidents and Past Council Presidents and asked them to look over the roster for any changes or corrections. At the meeting, Mrs. Wojtas passed around the Roster and asked those in attendance to check the roster for any additions or corrections. Once all additions/changes have been made, Mrs. Wojtas stated that she would distributed the updated master roster to everyone.

### **Treasurer – Col Charlie Bitner**

Col Charlie Bitner presented the treasurer's report which included copies of the 2022 Budget Recap, the Banking Summary and a copy from Chase Bank showing the current balance (copies attached to minutes). He stated that he is always happy when his balance and the Chase Bank balance are the same.

Col Bitner said that some of the donation expenses are for the Crisis Relief Fund, web support and Fisher House.

Col Bitner said that the Council is in good shape. He stated that a lot of the income has come from MOAA.

### **2023 Budget (Vote #2).**

Col Bitner presented the budget for 2023. He stated he added money for web support and miscellaneous donations. He also stated that the meeting expense and travel expense are pretty much the same as last year. Col Bitner stated that he has taken out the amount for satellite chapters since there no longer are any satellites.

Motion was made by 1LT Elliott Jones to approve the budget and seconded by CAPT Chuck Vaughn. Motion passed.



## **President – Col Pete Kloeber**

Col Pete Kloeber had a few comments before his slide presentation (see slide presentation below comments).

Col Kloeber said he developed the metric slides back in 2019 and has updated them for each meeting. He said overall, Arizona is down 41 members comparing 1 November 2021 to 1 November 2022. He said Arizona looks good on National MOAA membership.

Col Kloeber said he has names of chapter individuals who have not Opted-in for MOAA newsletters if any chapter would like to have the names.

### **AZ Chapters – Membership**

- Charts are included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

### **AZ Chapters – Metrics**

- Charts are included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

### **Opted-In for Communications**

- Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

### **MOAA Community Outreach Grants – 2022**

- Arizona received 3 of 33 awarded grants (40 applications)

Arizona	\$5,000
Grand Canyon	\$2,500
Luke	\$5,000
Total	\$12,500

### **Info/Reminders**

- Find C&C on website – moaa.org
  - “About MOAA”
  - “Councils and Chapters”
- Pay Chapter Dues Online – <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/ChapterTools/default.aspx>
  - “Council and Chapter Recruiting and Membership”
  - “Online Chapter Membership Dues (Join and Renewal)”
- Send newsletters to MOAA ([blaird@moaa.org](mailto:blaird@moaa.org))

- Opt-in TMN – just enter email
  - [https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa\\_preference\\_page/EmailSearch.aspx](https://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx)
- MOAA Visits – Request online
  - <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-management/initial-chapter-visit-request/>
- MOAA Chapter Recruiting Program Guide and Recruitment Tracker (downloads)
  - <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-recruiting-and-membership/>
- Near Real Time (NRT) Recruitment List – new 1<sup>st</sup> of each month
  - CM: “Details for xxxxx Chapter”, “Monthly Recruiting List”
  - Reason on list: (1) New to MOAA; (2) Moved to catchment area; (3) Opted in for emails
- Recruitment Incentives
  - \$15 for every incentive-qualified PREMIUM member (new or upgrade)
  - \$30 for every incentive-qualified LIFE member (new or upgrade)
  - Incentive-qualified: NOT National MOAA member preceding three years (except upgrades)

### **Committee Module Reminders**

- ALL “Eligible” members MUST be shown as a “Member” (ONLY once)
- DO NOT show “Ineligible” members as a “Member”
  - Only show for leader position
- Non-MOAA Members
  - “View All” then click on “Membership” – puts all “Blanks” at top
- Duplicate Records
  - “View All” then click on “Last/First Name” – sorts by name
- DO NOT
  - Include “End Date” for “Member” unless deceased or removed from Chapter
- If submit Common Join Form for new member/or member joins online
  - Still need to add to CM
- <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/committee-module/>
- Transition to new Automated Management System (AMS) – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

### **MOAA Councils**

- Lead and coordinate efforts in state legislative advocacy
- Support National MOAA legislative objectives
- Identify/negotiate chapter geographical boundaries
- Help form new chapters or satellites
- Help established chapters become stronger/more effective
- Help revitalize ailing chapters
- Disseminate items of interest/importance to member chapters
- Provide forum for exchange of ideas among member chapters
- Conduct/sponsor state conventions

- Consolidated communication link with National MOAA
- Represent a consensus of member chapters
- Lead...but **not direct member chapters**

### **Council Communications**

- Semi-annual Meetings
- Website – <https://www.azcouncilofchapters.org>
- Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/AZCOCMOAA/>
  - Chapter self-posting
- Emails – Only when beneficial...
- Round Tables – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays @ 1000 hours
- Chapter Newsletters – sharing

### **Numbers Tell a Story**

- 82,577 - \$ of contributions communities/veterans
- 69,100 - \$ of scholarships awarded by Arizona Chapters
- 9,415 – MOAA members in Arizona
- 1,015 – Chapter members in Arizona (11%)
- 596 – Zip codes in chapter catchment areas
- 115 – MOAA Chapter members in AVHOF (24%)
- 11 – Consecutive years for clean-sweep of 5-Star LOE
- 9 – Surviving spouses in 11 leader positions
- 8 – Spouses in 10 leader positions
- 1 – Number of Arizona VSOs with 100% BC Partners – MOAA

### **MOAA/Board Perspective**

#### **Late Breaking**

- Basic Membership – No Change
- Premium Membership – Auto-renewal “Pilot 2023”
- 5<sup>th</sup> Virtual Chapter – Judge Advocate
- Advocacy in Action 2023 – April 26<sup>th</sup> “on the Hill”
- New MOAA Board Chair – Gen Gary North, USAF (Ret)
- New MOAA President/CEO – Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret) – Jan 4th

#### **MOAA Membership**

- Total = 357,683 (30 Sep 2022)
  - Since 2018 = Increase 9.7% (VFW down 17%)
  - Since 2011 = Decrease 5.4% (American Legion down 33%)
- Paid = 212,512 (59.4%)
  - Since 2018 = Decrease 11.4%

- **ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO UPGRADE** (MOAA Incentive \$15 & \$30)
- Belong to Chapters = 36,957 (10.3%)
- Arizona Total = 9,415
- Belong to Chapters = 1,015 (10.8%)
  - Since 2019 = Decrease 12.2%
  - **Use the NRT (~11% success)**

### MOAA Chapters

● Healthy	229	(64%)
● Stable	75	(21%)
● Ailing	52	(14%)
● Dormant	2	( 1%)
● Total	358	

### Councils and Chapters Strategic Goals

- Increase overall **chapter membership**, emphasizing younger members to mitigate attrition and leadership succession challenges inherent in an aging volunteer membership.
- Strengthen and grow our **virtual chapters**.
- Expand **headquarters support** to all affiliates in the areas of non-dues revenue generation, advocacy engagement tools, recruiting and retention, leadership succession, communications, administrative and technology assistance, and leadership development.
- **Share information** across the affiliate network on best-in-class practices, emphasizing advocacy, membership growth, and community service, thereby increasing MOAA brand awareness among prospective members and their families.
- Strengthen affiliate **legislative advocacy** to maintain legislative influence in **every state**.
  - Legislative Consortium = 38 states and 100 members.

### Key Dates – 2022

- November 1 – Scholarship application period begins
- November 16 – Quarterly Meeting – Council/Independent Chapter Presidents
- November 17 – Roundtable – Retention
- December 1 – Community Outreach Grant Applications open
- December 29 – Roundtable – End of Year Review & Discussion

### Key Dates – 2023

- January 1 – AMBA (Mercer) Ad Program Applications
- February – Quarterly Meeting Council/Independent Chapter Presidents
- February 1 – Communications Award Submittals Due
- April 24-26 – Advocacy in Action
- April 27 – Council Presidents Seminar
- May 1 – Levels of Excellence (LOE) Applications Due

- June 1 – Strobbridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award Nominations Due
- June 1 – Surviving Spouse Liaison Award Nominations Due
- July 1 – Input due for October Military Officer Magazine
- November 17-18 – **West Regional Leader Training Workshop** (Location TBD)
- Monthly – MOAA Roundtables – Last Thursday, 7 p.m. (Eastern)

### **MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs Team**

- Meet the Team
  - Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

### **MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs Team 800-234-MOAA (6622)**

- CAPT Erin Stone, USN (Ret)
  - Senior Director, ext. 108; [erins@moaa.org](mailto:erins@moaa.org)
- CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret)
  - Program Director, ext. 818; [frankm@moaa.org](mailto:frankm@moaa.org)
- Victoria Twyne
  - Program Manager, ext. 118; [victoriat@moaa.org](mailto:victoriat@moaa.org)
- Fahria Hossain
  - Chapter Affairs Specialist, ext. 120; [fahriah@moaa.org](mailto:fahriah@moaa.org) (Chapter visits and awards)
- Joey Elliott
  - Chapter Affairs Specialist, ext. 168; [joeeye@moaa.org](mailto:joeeye@moaa.org) (Technology and Programs)

### **MOAA... and You Make a Difference!**

- Former Congressman (FL) – Jeff Miller
  - *“I trust and value MOAA above all other associations... MOAA excels because they bring us solutions.”*
- Surviving Spouse (Indianapolis, IN)
  - *“I lost my husband seven years ago... Engaging with my MOAA Chapter gave me my life back.”*

### **Reports of Staff/Committees**

### **Legislative Update – Federal/State – Lt Col Darren Venters**

### **Arizona Council of Chapters**

- Track federal legislation and encourage chapter support for MOAA alerts
- Track state legislation and encourage chapter support for weekly alerts
- DoD State Liaison Office Coordination
- MOAA State Legislative Consortium

## **Federal Legislation**

- FY 2023 NDAA Conference Committee
  - It's past October 1 – funding expires December 16
- Top Issues – 37 active Campaigns
  - Concurrent Receipt, Arlington Eligibility
  - Basic Needs Allowance
- How can you (I) help
  - MOAA – Ask Your Lawmakers to Seek Ways to Better Care for Servicemembers and Their Families (quorum.us)

## **2022 Arizona State Legislative Session**

- Successes
  - Proposition 130 Property Tax Exemptions
    - Disabled Veterans' Property Tax Exemption
  - Amend HOA Statute to allow Space Force flag
  - Relief for Guard or Reserve students who miss class due to “military duty”

## **Arizona**

- 2023 Key Personnel and Readiness Issues Supporting Service Members and Families
  - Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

## **2023 Arizona State Legislative Session**

- New Body
  - 30 Senators
  - 60 Representatives
- State Income Tax Parity for USPHS & NOAA
  - Groundwork
    - Military Caucus, Personal Contact with Legislators
- Resolution to Support Fisher House
- DoD State Liaison Office Issues

## **2023 Arizona Department Veteran Services**

- Jennifer Harris – Legislative Liaison
  - Director Veridus
    - “multi-disciplinary government relations team”
- Jessica Rozza
  - Replacing Jennifer
  - Moving from Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
    - [jroza@azdvs.gov](mailto:jroza@azdvs.gov)

## U.S. Congressional Districts/Assigned Chapters

- Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

## Transition/ESGR – Lt Col Darren Venters

NOTE: All Transition/ESGR slides were emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents and all attendees. In the interest of time, not all slides were presented at the Council meeting.

## Mission and End State

- Mission Statement
  - ESGR is a Department of Defense (DoD) office that develops and **promotes supportive work environments** for Service members in the Guard/Reserve Components **through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities** that **increase awareness** of applicable **laws**, and **resolves** employer **conflicts** between the Service members and their employers.
- End Goal
  - All employers **support and value** the employment of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States and Territories, thereby **enhancing the unit readiness** of Guard/Reserve Components.

## Key Components

- Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.
- A DoD Office, established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their Civilian Employers.
- Assists in resolution conflict.
- Encourages employment of Guardsmen and Reservists.
- 4,600 volunteers in 54 committees in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI (*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*) Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Volunteers are from business, industry, government, prior military, education, and many more fields.

## You Are Invited to be Part of Arizona ESGR

- ESGR, a **Department of Defense office**, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and *their civilian employers* and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

- Members of the Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers form an alliance essential to the security of our Nation. These brave men and women perform critical roles in disaster relief efforts at home and abroad and continue to serve around the world to ensure our freedom. They could not perform their critical mission without support from people like you. Join us and become a volunteer!
- Your involvement, in whatever capacity you choose, can improve the relationships our brave men and women have with their employers while they continually place themselves in harm's way, leave their families, and put their careers on hold to preserve our way of life.

### **You Are Invited to be Part of the TEAM**

- Chart is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents, and all other attendees.

### **WHAT ESGR USERRA OMBUDSMAN DO AND DON'T DO**

- Do Contact employer based on a USERRA claim, conflict or information request.
- Do Provide informal mediation attempting to resolve USERRA conflicts or claims.
- Do Educate both Service members and employers about USERRA.
- Do Resolve cases/claims in less than 9 days.
- Do Act as neutrals to facilitate resolutions of claims/cases.
- Do Resolve 80 percent of claims successfully.
- Do Open USERRA claims for service members (not employers)
- Do Manage USERRA claims via web submission 24/7 with next business day response.
- Do Inform Service members of their options, when unable to resolve a claim/case to fill out a DOL/VETS claim, or hire a private attorney.
- **Do Not Advocate for the Service member in USERRA matters.**
- **Do Not "Represent" the Service member in conflicts, claims or cases.**
- **Do Not Send Court Cases to employers attempting to influence complaint or case outcomes.**
- **Do Not Enforce USERRA;** DOJ is the enforcing agency.

### **Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act of 1994**

- USERRA restores employees who engage in military service to the **same level** of **seniority, status, pay** and **benefits** they would have accrued if they were not called up for military service.
- Who is covered under USERRA?
  - **Yes**
    - Past and current employees with uniformed service
    - Applicants for employment with uniformed service
    - Anyone assisting someone to obtain USERRA rights
    - Employers with even one (1) part time employee



- Regular military, Reserves, National Guard, National Disaster Medical System
- **No**
  - Guard members on state Active Duty for Floods, Fires, etc. (*Will be protected under the Governor's state protection laws.*)
  - Non-recurrent Employees, Clergy, Students, Partners, Contractors

### **Military Responsibilities**

- Provide prior notice to employer (verbal or written).
- Serve for no more than 5 cumulative years away from the workplace.
- Serve under honorable conditions.
- Return to work in accordance with USERRA guidelines.

### **Employer Responsibilities**

- Allow Military leave of absence.
- Prompt reinstatement of employee.
- Restore seniority.
- Reinstate employment benefits.
- Training or refreshing of skills.
- No discrimination or retaliation.
- To be eligible for protection under USERRA, **Service Members** must report back to work or apply for reemployment within the following guidelines:
  - **1-30 days** of service: REPORT to work on the next scheduled work day after 8 hours of rest and adequate travel time.
  - **31-180 days** of service: APPLY for reinstatement within 14 days following the completion of service.
  - **181+ days** of service: APPLY for reinstatement within 90 days following completion of service.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Does USERRA protect Service member if service was voluntary?
  - **Yes**, USERRA protects voluntary and involuntary service.
- Is Service member required to provide written orders for active duty?
  - **No**, advanced notice can be verbal or written in no particular format.
- Does the Service member have to find a replacement for their absence?
  - **No**, the service member does not need to find a replacement or rearrange his/her schedule to accommodate his/her military leave.
- Does a Service member have to use vacation for military service?
  - **No**, but the service member can choose to do so.
- How much time does an employer have to reemploy me upon my return?
  - Prompt reemployment is usually 14 days.

## **Service Members Should Build Good Relationship with Employers**

- Provide employer your UNCLASS deployment schedule far in advance of your departure.
- Communicate
  - Maintain open communication with your supervisor and HR personnel on obligations.
  - Keep in touch with the employer letting them know when you are returning.
  - Provide your employer your unit commander's information for contact and emergency purposes.
- Appreciate
  - Show appreciation for what they do for you, even if a behavior is required by law.
  - If possible, reach out to them and invite them to see what you do if possible (Boss Lifts).
  - Be flexible on things that don't matter.
- Remember you want the company to hire other Service members if the experience with Service members is beneficial to both.
- If you have questions about USERRA, call ESGR – 800-336-4590, option 1 or go to ESGR.mil.

## **Employer Award and Recognition**

- 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

## **Today's Key Take-Aways**

- Know YOU ARE PROTECTED by USERRA.
- Communicate with your employer as soon as you know:
  - your training-schedule
  - other demands that will take you away from work (schools, conferences, deployments)
- Recognize outstanding support (Awards)
- Go to: E-benefits Veterans Employment Center (formerly H2H).  
<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>
- OR
- Call the Employment Coordinator: 602-267-2404

## **How to Get Help**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – ALWAYS use your “chain of command”.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Contact your local ESGR Volunteer.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Contact the State Committee for ESGR at 602-629-4387.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Contact the ESGR’s National Headquarter at 1-800-336-4590.

## Contacts

- Dan Irving – State Chair
  - 602-615-0952
  - [d.irving.azesgr@gmail.com](mailto:d.irving.azesgr@gmail.com)
- Pat Kuykendall – Vice Chair
  - 928-713-9737
  - [pkuykendall.esgr@gmail.com](mailto:pkuykendall.esgr@gmail.com)
- Larry Jacobs – Northern Area
  - Bill Adams – Central
  - 623-934-5087
  - [badams\\_raa@cox.net](mailto:badams_raa@cox.net)
- John Chernoski – Southern Area
  - 520-204-3933
  - [jchernoski@cox.net](mailto:jchernoski@cox.net)

## Your State Contact Information

- Military Outreach ESGR Office
  - Camille Davis, Support Technician
  - Office: 602-267-2404
  - Cell: 623-505-5401
  - [camille.s.davis.ctr@army.mil](mailto:camille.s.davis.ctr@army.mil)
- **We All Serve!**
  - [www.ESGR.mil](http://www.ESGR.mil)
  - [www.facebook.com/GoESGR](https://www.facebook.com/GoESGR)
  - [www.twitter.com/ESGR](https://www.twitter.com/ESGR)
  - [www.youtube.com/EmployerSupport](https://www.youtube.com/EmployerSupport)
  - [www.linkedin.com/ESGRGroup](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/ESGRGroup)

## Transition Liaison

- Employment and Reemployment
  - MOAA
  - ESGR
- 3.5% Unemployment in Arizona
- MOAA Resources
  - [Financial Planning Guide](#)
  - [Transition Guide \(Free for Members and Guests\)](#)
  - [Marketing Yourself for a Second Career](#)
  - [Concurrent Receipt: Your Guide to CRDP and CRSC](#)
  - [Estate Planning](#)

- Employment Opportunities
  - [MOAATLAZ – Briefings \(moaatopsaz.org\)](http://MOAATLAZ – Briefings (moaatopsaz.org))

## **Surviving Spouse – Mrs. Sharon Douglas**

### **Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award/Advisory Council Appointment**

- The 2022 Surviving Spouse Excellence Awards have been announced. The winners are:
  - Council – Patricia Bergquist, Tennessee COC
  - Chapter – Judith Thomas, Houston Chapter
- Advisory Council Appointment
  - Norma Dunham from the Arizona Green Valley Chapter has been named to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council.
- Congratulations to all.

### **Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter**

- Membership continues to grow with over 177 members from 35 states.
- The chapter now meets monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas. Attendance varies, but usually includes 30 at the social meetings and up to 60 at the more formal meetings.
- For more information, visit the Surviving Spouse section of MOAA.org or contact Micki Costello at [MSSVC02@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MSSVC02@GMAIL.COM).

### **2023 Changes to Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)**

- On January 1, 2023, the SBP-DIC offset will be fully eliminated. That means beginning in 2023, SBP payments will no longer be offset (reduced) by DIC. Spouses will receive full SBP (issued by DFAS) and full DIC (from the VA).
- There is no action you need to take as a retiree for the changes to apply to your surviving spouse. However, you should check your RAS to ensure your SBP beneficiary is up-to-date. This is especially important if you have a former spouse. Find out more: <https://www.dfas.mil/SBPforspouse>.
- Also, if your monthly premiums are not automatically deducted from your pay, you should ensure your account does not have unpaid monthly premiums. If you pass away with unpaid monthly premiums, this could cause hardship for your survivors. Learn more: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforSBP>.
- For more details on the changes to SBP, see our special SBP-DIC News webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicnews>.

### **COLA Increase for 2023**

- There will be an 8.7% cost of living increase for social security, SBP, DIC, military retired pay and VA disability compensation.
- Notices will be mailed out in December of 2022.

- The IRS is considering an inflation adjustment to increase the value of federal tax credits and deductions.

### **Open Enrollment Dates**

- Fall **Medicare** open enrollment is going on now. The 2022 fall Medicare Open Enrollment Period for 2023 Medicare coverage started **October 15 and lasts until December 7, 2022.**
- **TRICARE** Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in or change your health care coverage for the next year. The next TRICARE Open Season is November 14 – December 13, 2022. Enrollment changes made during TRICARE Open Season will go into effect on January 1, 2023.
- To enroll in a GEHA plan, you need to go to the Office of Personnel Management (opm.gov) website. During the annual FEHB Open Season (**starts November 14 and ends December 12, 2022**), anyone eligible to participate in the FEHB Program may enroll, change health plans, or cancel enrollment.

### **New DOD Cards Compatible with TSA Security**

- There's good news for military personnel with new Common Access Cards, as well as retirees and military family members who received the Defense Department's next-generation identification card during the past two years. The IDs now work at Transportation Security Administration security checkpoints at all U.S. airports.
- For the past two years, those with the new cards have needed to produce an alternate form of identification at many airports, since the IDs' barcodes were incompatible with the TSA's scanning system.
- The problem was resolved in June 2022.
- <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/>.

### **Time for an Insurance Check-Up**

- You might be aware that your house has gone up in value since you bought it – even if you bought it last year. Are you sure you have enough coverage to rebuild your home if partial or total loss occurs?
- According to the Insurance Information Institute, home replacement costs have increased more than 10% over the past year due to high prices for building materials and labor.
- “There's been a massive increase in costs”, said Bryce Palmer, assistance vice president of affinity programs at Armed Forces Insurance. “It puts homeowners in a position where two years ago they may have had enough coverage on their policy, but this year they might not because costs have gone up.

### **The Elizabeth Dole Respite Relief Program**

- The Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF), A Respite Relief Program for Military and Veteran Caregivers, went nationwide in 2021. This free program grants family

caregivers, access to no-cost, short-term assistance to help those caring for wounded, ill or injured veterans or service members at home.

- EDF's Respite Relief Program offers care assistance provided by CareLinx – a qualified in-home respite care provider – and national outreach support by AARP, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). Veteran and military caregivers can apply online at <https://hiddenheroes.org/respite> to receive 24 hours of respite care to help with activities of daily living, such as cooking, grocery shopping, housekeeping, bathing, and medication reminders.

## Legislative Updates

### The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

- **Family caregivers of eligible Veterans of all eras can now apply.**
- **As of October 1, 2022, this program is now open to family caregivers of eligible Veterans of all eras.** This includes eligible Veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before September 11, 2001. Family caregivers of eligible Veterans of all eras can now apply.
- If you have a question or need help, you can contact us in any of these ways:
  - Call us at [855-488-8440](tel:855-488-8440) and ask for help filling out the form.
  - Use the online [Caregiver Support Coordinator Locator](#) to find a coordinator at your nearest VA health care facility.
  - Contact the VA National Caregiver Support Line by calling [855-260-3274](tel:855-260-3274).

### The PACT Act/Comprehensive Toxics Act

- The PACT Act was signed into law August 10, 2022; makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.
- Apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits. You can learn more and sign up at [www.va.gov/PACT](http://www.va.gov/PACT), or call them at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).
- How to apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits – surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](http://va.gov/family-member-benefits). Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.

### Help MOAA Fight Cuts to the TRICARE Pharmacy Program

- The TRICARE Pharmacy Program/Express Scripts recently announced a 25% cut to the retail pharmacy network with the elimination of approximately 15,000 independent pharmacies. This cost-cutting measure creates barriers to accessing prescription medications and has a disproportionate impact on rural beneficiaries and the elderly.
- Beneficiaries who continue to fill prescriptions at departing community pharmacies after October 24 will pay the full retail price for the medication; they must [submit a claim](#) to

TRICARE for partial reimbursement, which is subject to deductibles and [out-of-network cost shares](#).

- Please join us by [urging your lawmakers to reverse this cut](#) to your earned health care benefit. Go to the MOAA Legislative Action Center Page, <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.

### **The Supporting the Families of the Fallen Act H.R. 3793, S.2794**

- On September 21, 2022 the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs announced 13 bills to be considered on the House floor including:
  - The supporting the Families of the Fallen Act H.R. 393, S.2794.
  - To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the maximum amount of a policy under the Veterans' Group Life Insurance and Service Members' Group Life Insurance.

### **The MAMMO Act**

- The Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options Act was signed into law on 7 June 2022.
- The *MAMMO for Veterans Act* would also require VA to upgrade all in-house breast imaging to 3D mammography, which is considered the gold standard imaging technology for mammography. It would also direct VA to expand partnerships for clinical trials and research on breast cancer care, and emphasize improving access to care for women veterans, rural veterans, and disabled and paralyzed veterans.

### **New VA Policy on Abortions**

- Under the new rule, which took effect on September 9, 2022 the VA will provide abortion counseling and abortions in cases of rape, incest, or when a pregnancy threatens the patient's life to veterans and their eligible family members. This represents a historic change; the VA previously did not provide abortions for veterans under any circumstances and did not allow its providers to counsel patients about the procedure.
- The move is a direct result of the Supreme Court [overturning \*Roe v Wade\*](#) this summer, which set off a wave of abortion bans and restrictions around the country. VA leaders said those restrictions created "urgent risks" for veterans and forced the agency to act. "This expansion is a patient safety decision first and foremost", Dr. Shereef Elnahal, VA Under Secretary for Health, told members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday. "It is important to emphasize that VA is taking these steps with our primary mission in mind: to preserve the lives and health of veterans."

### **Highlights from the MOAA Annual Meeting**

- The following slides highlight the top three Surviving Spouse issues that MOAA is currently working on. These issues were discussed at the annual MOAA meeting in Kansas City, MO on 28 October 2022.
- Please act now and call your Legislators and Congressmen to show your support for the following proposed bills.

## **“Military Retiree Survivor Act” – H.R. 2214, S. 1669**

- Financial concerns and stress can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for a newly widowed spouse. For some, when they discover DFAS may take part or all of that last retirement check back, it can be an overwhelming event.
- The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (H.R. 2214 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.

## **Caring for Survivors Act**

- “Caring for Survivors” is another bill to call on.
- This legislation in the House and Senate (H.R. 3402 and S. 976) would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits. Ask your legislators to show their support and make a long-overdue correction to this injustice.

## **The Love Lives on Act**

- The Love Lives on Act was introduced in September 2022. Under current law, a surviving spouse could lose benefits if they remarry before the age of 55.
- The bipartisan legislation would allow spouses of deceased military service members to keep certain Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense benefits if they remarry, including:
- Allow surviving spouses to retain the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if they remarry, regardless of age. The Survivor Benefit Plan provides up to 55% of a service member’s retirement pay to an eligible beneficiary after the service member dies. The Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a tax-free monthly benefit to survivors.
- Redefine the term ‘surviving spouse’ to include those in same-sex marriages.
- Grant surviving spouses who remarry access to Commissary and Exchange benefits.
- Allow remarried surviving spouses with children access to electronic medical records, appointments, referrals, and prescription refills. The remarried surviving spouse would also be treated as a parent.
- Allow the surviving spouse to keep eligibility for education benefits under the Fry Scholarship and Dependents Education Assistance. The spouse would keep these benefits if their next marriage ended in death, divorce or annulment.

## **Survivor Benefit Highlights**

### **Survivor Accrued Benefits**

- A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing. Additional Education and Training Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill



programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.

### **Survivor Benefits Available**

- Burials and Burial Allowance Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National Cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service disability status of the deceased Veteran.

### **Education and Training**

- Education and Training Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.

### **Final Monthly Payment**

- If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.

### **Home Loan Guaranty**

- Certificate of Eligibility for a home loan guaranty is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.

### **Health Care**

- Health Care Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

### **Where to Find Information & Support**

- MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends: Join the MOAA Surviving spouses Facebook page to stay informed.
- Surviving Spouses Facebook Group.
- DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy: Join the Facebook page and be part of the grassroots efforts for change.
- MOAA: Webpage.
- Congress.gov: Pertains to information on legislation action and progress.
- Your local Chapter Surviving Spouse Representative.
- The AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison. I'm always happy to help or find you help. Please feel free to contact me. [Sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com).

## **End of Presentation**

- Thank you for your time and attention.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:  
[Sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com) or 928-632-5939.

## **Chapter Development – Col Pete Kloeber (for Col Ron Perkins and Lt Col Dick Jonas)**

Prior to the slide presentation, Col Pete Kloeber provided a brief history of satellite chapters in Arizona. There had been five satellites with four at one time which represented 25% of MOAA's total. Two of the five (40%) became chapters. The remaining three went inactive due to lack of leadership succession (health and moves) and member inactivity (see slide presentation below comments).

- There are no satellite chapters in the AZ Council of Chapters at the present time. Our plan is to monitor chapters which have large memberships/areas for possible future satellite hosts.

## **Chapter Officer/Leader Training – Col Pete Kloeber**

- Source Documents/Familiarization
  - MOAA Policies and Procedures Guide
  - MOAA Leaders Workbook
  - AZCOC Chapter Position Responsibilities Guide
  - Governance
    - Corporation Commission/Articles of Incorporation
    - Bylaws
    - OIs/SOPs
    - Operations Plans
    - Strategic Plans
- Council or Chapter SMEs
  - President
    - Continuity, Governance documents, programs, LOE, CM, P&P Guide, Position Responsibilities
  - Treasurer
    - Budgets, Reports, IRS (990, 990-N), ACC Annual Reports
  - Membership
    - CM, NRT
  - Secretary
    - Minutes, Records
  - Directors
    - Continuity, Governance, P&P Guide
  - Legislative
  - Surviving Spouse

- Chaplain
- Programs
  - Scholarships, Speakers, Grants (MOAA, ADVS), etc.

### **New Chapter Leaders**

- President – 4 (plus Council)
  - AZCOC, Luke, Superstition Mountain, Tucson, Yuma
- Vice President – 6 (plus Council)
  - AZCOC, Coronado, Grand Canyon, Superstition Mountain, Tucson, Yuma
- Secretary – 3
  - Arizona, Green Valley, Superstition Mountain
- Treasurer – 1
  - Luke
- Membership – 1
  - Luke
- Legislative – 3 (plus Council)
  - AZCOC, Catalina Mountains, Tucson
- **Total = 18** + 3 Council

### **Chapter Governance**

- Ensure the Future
- Ensure the Mission
- Ensure Effective Operations
- Ensure Effective Governance
  - State and IRS Founding Documents
  - Bylaws
  - Vision and Mission Statements
  - Strategic Plan
  - Operations Plan/Manual

### **IRS Audit of Luke Chapter – Col Mike Kramer**

#### **“IRS Tax Audit and Lessons Learned”**

#### **Agenda**

- The audit-process
- Data/documents required
- Results of audit
- Refresher on 501 (c) 19 rules
- Key issues and lessons learned
- Resources

## The Audit Process – What Happened?

- April 25: IRS letter directing full document audit for FY 2019-2020
  - We selected [Luke Chapter] for examination...”; ‘random computer selection’; IRS requested:
    - Backup software for all books of account on Quicken, Quickbooks, Sage, others
    - Work papers of the accountant preparing the Form 990 return
    - Profit/loss statements, balance sheets, trial balance, journal entries, detailed general ledger
    - Minutes of meetings of the board and committees for calendar years 2019-2020
    - A long list of potential documents, e.g., checks, invoices, bank records, grants, raffles, etc.
  - 5 May: Called the agent immediately; negotiated a reduced document submittal
    - Board minutes and monthly financials for fiscal year 2019-2020 (twelve months)
    - Organized the package and mailed with letter; our software was obsolete, so sent thumb-drive
  - 15 July: Dennis DeFrain and Mike Kramer interviewed on Zoom by two agents (one hour)
  - 5 August: Second letter with specific ‘focus’ questions and additional document demands
  - 6 September: IRS letter: *“We completed the examination for the issue and dates above and closed the examination with no change.”*

## Refresher on (c) 19 Rules

- To qualify for tax exemption, Veterans Organizations must:
  - Promote social welfare of community, veterans, active duty, patriotism, social and recreational activities, etc.
  - 75% of members must be ‘veterans’ or active duty for income tax exemption; 97.5% of all members must be active, veterans, or spouses/widows of veterans, or cadets
  - Not more than 2.5% can be ‘other’
- 90% of members must be ‘war veterans’ or spouses/widows of ‘war veterans’ for deductibility of donations
- IRS letter granting exemption requires a report to IRS if fail to qualify at any time; is anyone keeping track?

## Key Issues and Lessons Learned

- On-going corporate compliance and document retention vital
  - The minutes and financial records must be in good shape and available
  - Demonstrate a good faith effort to follow the rules of governance
  - Rules of (c) (19) must be followed and documented
  - The chapter cannot remedy document lapses in a few days
- The interview probed compliance issues;
  - Do we have tax donation acknowledgements? Trick Question!
  - Do we have DD Form 214s for each member?

- Members benefit directly (private benefit/inurement)?
- The August letter asked about possible compliance issues:
  - Are our members qualified as vets? Do we meet the percentages?
  - What proof in documents available to establish veteran status?
- Know and obey rules for 501 (c) (3) and (19); anticipate issues, document membership categories, ongoing and annually
  - NOAA/PHS members a ‘sleeper’ issue
  - Action for amendment of bylaws on membership-Honorary members?
  - File the required returns on the correct form when due?
  - “Related organizations”? “Excess benefits”? Exempt purpose”?
  - Legislative lobbying vs. partisan political campaigns
- Written policy critical for record systems and retention
- Establish early contact with agent, communicate often, build a relationship of trust and confidence
- Maintain ‘good standing’ with AZ Corporation Commission
- Print a copy of membership roster at end of FY; do the numbers
- Monitor, Educate, Train and Audit

## Resources

- IRS Exempt Organizations: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>
- “Tax Guide---Veterans Organizations”, Pub 3386
- “Compliance Guide for 501 (c) 3 Public Charities”, Pub 4221 and “Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization”, Pub 557
- “Compliance Guide for Other Than Public Charities”, Pub 4221nc
- Sign up for IRS “Tax Tips” emails on non-profit organizations
- IRS Course – “Maintaining 501 (c) 3 Tax Exempt Status” – <https://www.stayexempt.irs.gov/home/existing-organizations/maintaining-501c3-tax-exempt-status>
- IRS Tax Tips: Issue No. Tax Tip 2022-141, “Got a letter or notice from the IRS? Here are the next steps”
- Life Cycle of an Exempt Organization – <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/life-cycle-of-a-public-charity>

## Old Business – Col Pete Kloeber

- **Action Items – Meeting 6 May 2022**
  - ✓ Email copies of all presentations
  - ✓ Have Lt Col Darren Venters, on behalf of the Arizona Council of Chapters, continue the fight for income tax parity for USPHS and NOAA
  - ✓ Email copy of Col Mike Kramer’s “Director of Compliance Duties”
  - ✓ Lt Col Nichola Knight will send out an email asking who would like to receive the Council and the Yuma Chapter newsletters
  - ✓ Col Pete Kloeber will request MOAA address former officers and work to find/understand their needs concerning MOAA

## **New Business – Col Pete Kloeber**

### **Council Bylaws**

- Amended/Approved – November 2020
- Reviewed/OK – October 2022
  - Some verbiage will be fixed to make consistent, i.e. MOAA or Military Officers Association of America

### **Council Officer Election/Installment (Vote #3) – Col Pete Kloeber/Lt Gen Dana Atkins**

Nomination committee consisted of Col Ron Perkins, Lt Col Dick Jonas and Chaplain (COL) Tom Day.

- Nominations
  - President – Lt Col Nicholas Knight – Yuma Chapter
  - Vice President – CAPT Charles Vaughan – Catalina Mountains Chapter

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to approve the nomination for president and vice president was made by Col Bill Wojciechowski and seconded by Lt Col John Bushko. Motion passed.

### **Council Officer Appointments**

- Appointments
  - Secretary – Mrs. Pam Wojtas – Luke Chapter
  - Treasurer – Col Charlie Bitner – Arizona Chapter

### **Council Board/Staff**

- Immediate Past President – Col Pete Kloeber – Grand Canyon Chapter
- Membership Chair – Mrs. Pam Wojtas – Luke Chapter
- Legislative Chair – Col Tom Waddell – Grand Canyon Chapter
- Chaplain – Col Tom Day – Coronado Chapter
- Surviving Spouse Liaison – Mrs. Sharon Douglas – Northern Arizona Chapter
- Transition Liaison – Lt Col Darren Venters – Green Valley Chapter
- Personal Affairs Chair – Mrs. Polly Parks – Tucson Chapter
- News Editor Chair – Lt Col Nicholas Knight – Yuma Chapter
- Webmaster/Facebook – Col Ron Perkins – Arizona Chapter

*9 of 10 Chapters represented on Council*

### **Installation of Officers – Lt Gen Dana Atkins**

- President – Lt Col Nicholas Knight

- Vice President – CAPT Charles Vaughan
- Secretary – Mrs. Pam Wojtas
- Treasurer – Col Charlie Bitner

**“Term of office shall commence on  
1 January of the year following an election”**

## **Chapters Semiannual Updates**

### **Northern Arizona Chapter (AZ04)**

#### **Leadership Succession**

- Two-year succession cycle. May serve 2 terms. Nominating committee identifies candidates, membership input is encouraged. Election and installation of new officers is held in December.
  - President – Mrs. Sharon Douglas, Surviving Spouse
  - Vice President – Lt Col Alex Torrance, USMC
  - Secretary – Mrs. Roberta Rice, Spouse
  - Treasurer – Lt Col Dick Jonas, USAF
  - Legislative Affairs – Col Steve Woods, USA
  - Personal Affairs – Lt Col Bob Wallace, USMC
  - Membership Chair – Lt Col Dick Jonas, USAF

#### **Membership**

- Numbers
  - 47 – Regular Members
  - 09 – Surviving Spouses
  - 56 – Total Members
- Recruitment
  - Recruitment from the NRT list has not provided many leads this summer and into the fall.
  - NRT list is used for contacting potential members. An information letter is followed up by a personal phone call. A copy of our latest newsletter is sent to interested parties.
  - NAC has a meeting notice published in the local newspaper and three smaller area publications.
  - Participate in local community events by having a MOAA information table set up. Members staff the table, answer questions, have membership forms available, and hand out issues of the Military Officers Magazine.
  - Increased our social media presence with an upgraded website: [nacmoaa.org](http://nacmoaa.org) and Facebook page at NACMOAA.
- Retention
  - Lost 15 members due to health reasons, moving from the area, letting dues lapse.
  - Gained 3 new members.

- NAC has lost 18% in 2022.
- Surprisingly, we have seen a significant loss in membership after the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- Membership Chair has strong knowledge of the Committee Module and accesses it several times a month.
- President is familiar with the CM and continues to gain knowledge with use.
- The member's list is reviewed periodically and compared to the Chapter's official Excel membership roster.
- Corrections are made to the CM as needed.
- If there are issues, National's MSC is contacted for resolution.

### **Successes**

- Scholarships
  - Awarded 2 ROTC and 3 JROTC including the Gerald Hietpas Memorial Scholarship.
- Honor Flight
  - NAC will be sending one of our members on this once in a lifetime trip in March of 2023.

### **Challenges**

- Retention and Recruitment
- Volunteerism
  - Limited to a very small group.
  - Participation in upcoming activities remains low.
  - Looking to add a wider variety of activities to engage a larger number of our members.

### **Programs/Activities**

- NAC sponsored the Northern Arizona Chapter of the Patriot Guard Riders at our August lunch meeting.
- Prior to giving a guest speaker presentation of their mission and organization, they treated our members and the residents of Granite Gate Senior Living Facility to a Patriotic Ride By. Six members of the PGR paraded by with their motorcycles flying American and Military affiliation flags, honking horns and sirens blaring.
- The members and facility residents were waving flags and singing God Bless America.
- Our chapter was proud to make a donation to PGR Organization.

### **Legislative Activities**

- Our new Legislative Affairs Liaison, Steve Woods, was appointed to our local Mayor Phil Goode's Veterans Commission.



- This appointment gives our chapter insight to local veteran projects and proposed legislation of interest to state and local veteran issues.
- NAC also participated in this year’s Advocacy in Action campaign by holding a virtual meeting with Representative Paul Gosar’s staff to discuss key issues.

**Goals**

- Progress on goals since last COC meeting
  - Expanded our Scholarship Program
- Goal for 2023
  - Apply for Community Grants

**Other**

- NAC was in charge of the registration table at the Prescott Stand Down for the fourth year in a row. We had a very successful year helping the local veterans. Thank you to the NAC members who participated.

**Green Valley (AZ03)**

**Leadership Succession**

- The Green Valley Leadership Succession is as stated in our bylaws; revised last year to include spouses holding Board positions.
- We hold annual elections, but expect most Presidents to hold that position for 2 years.
- The Past President goes to the 501 (c) 3 Director and is available to help on-coming President.
- We continue to expose upcoming Presidents to the AZCOC and MOAA Regional meetings.
- As we add new members, we encourage them to take on leadership goals. We have added to the back of our application a questionnaire where new members can indicate their interest in volunteering.

**Membership**

- Numbers – as of October 20, 2022
  - National Members (former & retired) 68
  - Surviving Spouses 9
  - TOTAL MEMBERS 77
  - Aux Spouses 17
- Recruitment
  - New members in last year 5
- Retention
  - Losses in this past year
    - Moves 5
    - Drops for those no longer interested

- Health problems, nursing home, inability to attend 7
- Deaths 11

**NOTES:**

- Viable, but declining/aging population in retirement community
- Very few young, eligible candidates
- 10 – 15 very active, dependable members
- Upcoming Mix & Mingle will produce 5 or more new members in November

**CM Knowledge/Use**

- OK

**Successes**

- We’ve had a good year for recruitment – 5 new members over last six months. The NRT has been very useful.

**Challenges**

- Gaining more members to participate on our Board.

**Programs/Activities**

- Our most significant program is the support we give the JROTC Units at local high schools with our scholarship program, with \$4,500 given this spring. We have established a major effort to attract corporate sponsors to support our scholarship efforts. Our goal is to increase our scholarships from \$1,500 to \$2,500 next spring.

**Legislative Activities**

- Green Valley Chapter members CDR John Chernoski and Lt Col Darren Venters continue their work with state legislators. Additionally, we have become more active in contacting our State and National Congress Members via emails.

**Goals**

- Membership Retention
  - Getting younger members involved
- Maintaining adequate funding/donor base
- Add at least 5 new members in the next six months

**Other**

- A community Partner (CP) is an individual or business that commits to financially support the MOAA Green Valley Chapter by donating a sum of money to the Chapter’s Scholarship/Military Assistance Fund. The annual minimum determined by the Chapter

Board is \$2,500. This donation can be split between two individuals or businesses. Because we are a 501 (c) 3 organization, this donation is tax deductible.

- In return the CP will receive a plaque, a business ad in the Chapter newsletter, which is published a minimum of six times a year, company logo or individual picture on Community Partner Story Board, complimentary tickets to Chapter special functions. A Story Board will be displayed at all Chapter events.

## **Arizona Chapter (AZ01)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- President – Tom Sheets
  - Completing first year in December 2022
  - Will begin second year January 1, 2023
- First Vice President – Bob Fiegl
  - Completing first year in December 2022
  - Will begin second year January 1, 2023
- Second Vice President – Jack Farley
  - Completing second year December 2022
  - Bruce Kosaveach will begin first year January 1, 2023

### **Membership**

- Numbers – Total 170
  - Regular – 142
  - Surviving Spouse – 24
  - Other - 2
  - Honorary – 1 (does not count in total numbers)
- Recruitment
  - Met 2022 goal of 24 in October
- Retention
  - Many “aging out” of participation
  - Improve our “data” in 2023

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- Bob Fiegl – First VP and Membership Chair
  - Very strong in knowledge and use
- Tom Sheets – President
  - Less use and knowledge

### **Successes – Fundraising**

- Significantly increased fundraising through:
  - Service Academy football game parties and pools
  - NCAA football championship party and pool

- Super Bowl party and pool
- Online Auctions
  - Partner with Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce
  - Use platform called DoJiggy
- Fantasy Golf
  - Like a lottery scratcher
  - Play 18 holes without leaving the bar

## **Challenges**

- Engagement
  - Only about 30% of our members regularly participate in our monthly meeting/luncheon and other events.

## **Programs/Activities**

- Annual Army-Navy Game
  - Second Saturday every December
  - Partner with SWVCC
  - Held at Famous 48 Grill in Scottsdale
  - Sold “Four Boards of 100 squares” each last year; \$5 a square
  - \$2,000 income
  - Give away one \$50 winner per board at end of each quarter (\$600)
  - Beyond \$, great energy, enthusiasm, and interservice rivalry; we manage to recruit one or two new members every year
  - Other two games have been less successful; not doing in 2022

## **Legislative Activities**

- Participated in 2022 Advocacy in Action March – May 2022
- Coordinated meetings with Senator Sinema and Representatives Gallegos and Schweikert. Meetings focused on supporting military pay and benefits, helping combat injured members, and reducing co-pays for TRICARE mental health services.
- Kept members informed of Federal and State issues through our newsletter and urged them to support MOAA calls for action and designated issues.

## **Goals**

- One 2022 Goal: Recruit 24 new members in 2022
  - As of October 20 – have recruited 24 new members
- One 2023 Goal: Increase Member Engagement by 20%
  - Would raise average number from 53 to 63

## **Other**

- No other items to present

## **Grand Canyon Chapter (AZ11)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- Elected Position: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2-year terms) and three Directors (3-year staggered terms), all National MOAA members.
- Appointed Positions: Secretary, Treasurer (2-year terms) and Committee Chairs are appointed by the President with approval of the Board of Directors.
- President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and the three Directors are all voting members.

### **Membership**

- Numbers
  - 128 Members (112 regular; 16 surviving spouses)
- Recruitment
  - 7 (2022)
- Retention
  - 99% (since 2011)

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- President, O.K.; Membership Chair, Outstanding!

### **Successes**

- Community Involvement
  - (Northern Arizona Veterans Coalition; JROTC/ROTC awards and scholarships (4 @ \$750 each); Veterans Court Mentors; High Country Stand Down; Representation at Community Veterans-related activities.)

### **Challenges**

- **Recruiting, leader succession, and member involvement!**

### **Programs/Activities**

- Support of VA Formerly Homeless Veterans and their families through the VA Supportive Housing Program Financial Assistance (\$16,130 from November 2021 – October 2022).

### **Legislative Activities**

- Council President, Chapter President and Chapter Legislative Liaison met with CD1 Representative Tom O'Halleran on 11 April as part of MOAA's Advocacy in Action.

- Extensive legislative summaries and calls for action in each monthly chapter newsletter.

## **Goals**

- Continue to publicize MOAA and identify potential members.
- Continue to identify and apply for grants to sustain our VA Formerly Homeless Program.

## **Other**

- Surviving Spouse Liaison involvement.
- Colonel Rebecca Seeger, USAF (Retired) inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

## **Yuma Chapter (AZ10)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- We just published our slate of new officers for our upcoming elections in December. Linda Matthias (Surviving Spouse Liaison) is slated to serve as President for 2023/24. Jim Adler is slated to move to Vice President for 2023/24.

### **Membership**

- Numbers
  - 19 Regular and 4 Surviving Spouses on CM.
- Recruitment
  - Facebook continues to be our best tool for recruiting. We are looking to send out a mass email for our December Holiday Social Meeting.
- Retention
  - Most members attending pre-COVID are still attending now and are renewing chapter membership. Most losses are attributed to health, death, loss of mobility or out of town moves.

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- Strong/Strong. The current President and Membership Chair is used to working with the CM, downloading monthly reports, and updating changes to membership and leadership.

### **Successes**

- In June we presented our 2022 Graduating Senior Scholarship to a very bright and confident senior preparing to attend architectural school in New York.

### **Challenges**

- Recruitment, aging membership, and getting members to commit to meetings.

## **Programs/Activities**

- We completed our annual solicitation, selection, and award of our Young American Awards and Graduating Senior Scholarship during our May and June meetings. In November we will conduct our annual veterans' visits at local rehab and care centers.

## **Legislative Activities**

- Advocates in Action. Also, the executive director of the Yuma County Chamber of Congress was our guest for our April meeting.

## **Goals**

- Progress on Previous Goal
  - Recruit an equal or greater number than we lose to attrition. We are losing our most senior members faster than we can find new young members.
- Progress on Previous Goal
  - Increase chapter meeting attendance. 12 attendees at the October 2020 meeting were our initial benchmark. We are at the same approximate number for the last two meetings.
- New Goal
  - Improve our methods of getting the work out to prospective members and making our meetings and speakers irresistible to those not currently attending.

## **Catalina Mountains Chapter (AZ12)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- Have a 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Kurt McMillen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, David Bull
- I will serve as president through 2023
- Vacant Positions
  - Chaplain
  - Fundraising Chair
  - Public Relations Chair
  - Surviving Spouse Liaison (Tucson SS is filling temporarily)

### **Membership**

- Numbers
  - Regular 61
  - Surviving Spouses 3
  - TOTAL 64
- Recruitment

- Membership Chair is tracking 29 prospective members.
- National MOAA email blast sent out for 5 November Chartering Ceremony
- Retention
  - 97% retention from 2021 to 2022

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- Used by President and Membership Chair
- Both are comfortable using CM
- No changes recommended

### **Successes**

- Became chartered by MOAA as a chapter on 14 July.

### **Challenges**

- Getting chapter members more involved in community support projects – currently working on two projects involving Esperanza en Escalante (housing for low-income veterans).

### **Programs/Activities**

- Stood up the Catalina Mountains Chapter – required the efforts of all members of the leadership team.

### **Legislative Activities**

- Co-hosted a joint political candidates forum (with the Tucson Chapter) in September – invited 8 candidates of both political parties to attend, had a good turnout and a good discussion.

### **Goals**

- Progress
  - Solidify succession
- Progress
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP positions filled
- New measurable goal
  - Conduct at least one Microsoft Windows class and one Improving Your Financial Literacy class at Esperanza en Escalante before 1 January 2023.

### **Other**

- Utilized National MOAA’s capability to send out an email to all MOAA non-chapter members in our catchment area to announce our 5 November Chartering Ceremony.



Have gotten a few responses from non-chapter members and may recruit a few additional chapter members as a result.

## **Tucson Chapter (AZ08)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- Longevity Range = 4-15 years
- Vacant Positions
  - VP/Programs
  - VP/Membership
  - Legislative Liaison
- Voluntary Dual Positions
  - President/Legislative Liaison/Programs
  - Treasurer/Membership

### **Membership**

- Numbers
  - Regular 34
  - Surviving Spouses 17
  - Other 3
  - **Total** 54

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- Good information management tool
- Could be more user friendly with some enhancements, e.g., help screens
- Comfortable navigating the CM

### **Successes**

- Department of Veterans Services Grant for \$4,950

### **Challenges**

- Leadership Succession

### **Programs/Activities**

- Increases our involvement with Esperanza en Escalante, a program dedicated to providing assistance to homeless veterans and families.

## **Legislative Activities**

- Ongoing frequent email and letter communications with Senator Simena, Senator Kelly and Representative Ann Kirkpatrick on pending legislation and MOAA priorities.

## **Goals**

- (2021) – Recruit members to fill all vacant Board positions. (50%)
- (New) – Increase member involvement in community outreach projects.

## **A Max Effort**

- Increase involvement of membership in Chapter activities through improved communications.

## **Luke Chapter (AZ06)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- Gene Wikle elected to a two-year term as Chapter President effective 1 July 2022.

### **Membership – as of 1 October 2022**

- Numbers
  - Regular: 158 / Surviving Spouse: 36 / Non-MOAA: 5 / Total 199
- Recruitment
  - On-going – HOAs, Clubs, Churches, Social-Media, Luke AFB Retiree Affairs Office, MOAA National, and new subdivision growth in West Valley
- Retention
  - Membership is holding steady, slight decrease from pre-COVID.

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- New Membership Committee Chair – in training

### **Successes**

- Surviving Spouse Program – National Award recognition to Linda Wolverton. Very active and successful program. Continue to grow and to reach out to help surviving spouses in need. Invited Gail Joyce, (Surviving Spouse) National MOAA Foundation Board member to speak at chapter dinner in March or April 2023.

### **Challenges**

- Recruiting members to serve as chapter officers and committee chairs. Have one chapter officer vacancy and several committee chair vacancies.

## **Programs/Activities**

- Veterans Relief Grant Committee – strong chapter committee participation/preparing for large number of 2022-2023 grant requests from veterans’ support agencies.

## **Legislative Activities**

- Nothing to report – preparing for the 2023 legislative session.

## **Goals**

- Progress since November 2021: 18 new members compared to 15 new members in 2020. Increase in donations to community fund.
- New Goal: Fill current chapter office vacancy and committee chair vacancies.

## **Coronado Chapter (AZ02)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- The Leadership Succession is proceeding well.
- President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President positions are filled.
- President’s position is planned to be filled through December 2026.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President historically stands for election to the position of President at the end of the current President’s term.
  - Our current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President has agreed to become President, if elected.
- We also have a history of the Membership Director stepping into the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position. Nominating committee recently produced an Assistant Membership Director into the pipeline.
- All LOE positions are currently (and/or temporarily) filled.
- We have two couples serving on the BOD.

### **Membership**

- Numbers (a/o 15 October 2022)
  - 133 Regular Members
  - 24 Surviving Spouses Members
  - 3 Honorary Members/Board Members
- Recruitment
  - We recruited 8 new MOAA National members in the year 2022.
  - Thus far this year, we gained 15 new Distinguished Honor Graduate Premium members to National and Coronado.
- Retention
  - Each Newsletter has a membership renewal form to make renewing easier.
  - Reminder planned for December and February via mass mailing, calls and emailing.

- Development of Outreach Committee to communicate the benefits and draw of membership.

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- Our Membership Chair (aka President) is well experienced and accesses it often.

### **Successes**

- The Military Intelligence Officer DHG Recognition Program.
- Our chapter continues a program in which MOAA awards three-year premium memberships to Distinguished Honor Graduates of Fort Huachuca’s Military Intelligence Officer and Warrant Officer Courses.
- Annually producing around 1/3 of all graduate program gains for MOAA National.

### **Challenges**

- Inflation
  - The cost of doing business has affected the chapter most glaringly with a 38% increase in cost of dinner meeting venue and food.
- Conversion of “Just-a-Member” to active members.

### **Programs/Activities**

- Our Student Support Programs are our flagship programs.
- Our Scholarship Program:
  - We increased our scholarship fund from \$10K to \$12K.
  - We awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to four awardees.
  - Susan Atchison-Day, our Scholarship Director, lead a Membership Dinner Meeting in honoring our graduates and the many parents attending.
- Our JROTC Director works with local JROTC leaders and leads our chapter to recognition of outstanding cadets from two local JROTC Corps.
  - These cadets are welcomed to be recognized at our monthly Member Dinner Meeting.
- Our Distinguished Honor Graduate Program.

### **Legislative Activities**

- Our Legislative Affairs Director, CDR Merle Kilpatrick, USN (Ret), sends “action” email blasts every week that contain legislative alert information and requests for members to send MOAA-suggested messages to their Legislators.
- Over 700 Active Chapter Members, potential Chapter Members, Retirees, and other Veterans’ Organizations receive the information.
- Director Kilpatrick partners with State Veteran Advisory Commission and local and state-level United Veterans Councils to keep them informed.
- He also emails chapter newsletters to elected political leaders including local lawmakers.

- For Advocacy in Action, he coordinated a well-organized and well-attended AIA virtual meeting with Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick.

## **Goals**

- Progress of Measurable Goal from last meeting = To maintain our current membership total in the next six months.
  - 205 in May 2021 vs. 160 in October 2022
  - Impact of December 2021 drop of 30 DHG after 2021 Dues Holiday expired.
- New Measurable Goal = Give added support to Veterans' groups and projects by coordinating MOAA Foundation grants and other chapter assistance.
  - Two organizations have been identified for support.
  - Development of the submission process for grants in underway.

## **Other**

- December 2021 held a Recruiting Mixer.
- Gained 4 members from the attendees.

## **Superstition Mountain Chapter (AZ07)**

### **Leadership Succession**

- John Bushko is in his fourth year as president.
- We will be determining his successor later this year.

### **Membership**

- Numbers
  - Regular – 99 (lost 2, one moved and one recently passed)
  - Surviving Spouses – 21
- Recruitment
  - Using the list from National and personal contact to find new members.
- Retention
  - Email reminder to all members in October/November, newsletter articles by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, and follow-up letter in March to those who have still not renewed.

### **CM Knowledge/Use**

- President's CM knowledge is strong while the Membership Chair's knowledge is OK but getting better. Primarily used by MC.

### **Successes**

- We continue to support 21 JROTC and 3 ROTC units in the state with certificates, medals and \$100 award for the JROTC cadet deemed worthy by the senior instructor.

## **Challenges**

- Recruiting – list from National has bad addresses and phone numbers.
- Getting members to step up to leadership positions.
- Finding locations for meetings.

## **Programs/Activities**

- Our Auxiliary/SS group continues to build hygiene kits for the VA Service Center to distribute to needy vets. Additionally, they made more heart pillows and donated them to Hospice of the Valley to use in their children's grief groups.

## **Legislative Activities**

- We participated in the Advocacy in Action and had meetings with 2 Congressmen.
- Our Legislative Representative keeps up-to-date with all state and national activity and reports it in our newsletter each month to keep our members informed on legislation that may affect the military and veterans.

## **Goals**

- Membership Retention.
- Increase attendance at membership meetings.

## **Round Table – Items from the Floor**

- Recruitment and Leadership Succession – Col Pete Kloeber and Lt Gen Dana Atkins both stated that this issue is a chapter-wide problem. Lt Gen Atkins said someone asked him which comes first, recruitment or leadership succession. He said both; you can't have leadership succession without recruiting.
- Col Pete Kloeber said to look at the Council Website to see map of Arizona. This will show where chapters are located and gives information about the chapters.
- Col Pete Kloeber said that if anyone needs training on the Committee Module to give him a call.
- Col Pete Kloeber said ask anything of the Council. If the Council does not have the answer, they will contact MOAA to get the answer.
- Col Pete Kloeber said he has put Be Connected cards on the table against the wall. He said there are also flyers on MOAA trips on the table.
- Col Pete Kloeber said he hopes that everyone takes something away from this meeting which is beneficial.
- Col Pete Kloeber stated that the chapter updates certainly expand the branding of MOAA.
- Lt Gen Dana Atkins said that the financial planner at MOAA would be able to help Esperanza en Escalante with their financial training.

- Lt Gen Dana Atkins said phishing and scams are becoming more prevalent and MOAA has a briefing on the subjects.
- Lt Gen Dana Atkins stated that Community Salutes puts on banquets for all who said they are going on active duty for schools.
- Lt Gen Dana Atkins said Last Patrol provides help to Veterans.

**Action Item #1** – Mrs. Pam Wojtas to email copies of all presentations. Completed prior to distribution of minutes.

**Action Item #2** – Col Pete Kloeber to get copies of Community Salutes for distribution to chapters.

**Action Item #3** – Col Pete Kloeber to get copies of Last Patrol for distribution to chapters.

**Action Item #4** – Col Pete Kloeber to send Col Mike Kramer’s presentation to Lt Gen Dana Atkins. Completed prior to distribution of minutes.

### **Wrap Up/Good of the Order**

### **Future Council Meetings**

- Spring 2023 (May 12<sup>th</sup>) – Grandview Terrace (Sun City West)
- Fall 2023 (November 3<sup>rd</sup> [Tentative] – The Colonnade (Surprise)
- Coordinators
  - Council VP
  - Council IPP

### **Adjourn (Vote #4)**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Col Gary Fredricks and seconded by Lt Col John Bushko. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1445.

Respectfully submitted.

Pam Wojtas  
 AZCOC Secretary  
 Phone Number: 623-544-4477  
 Email: [jp7wojtas@gmail.com](mailto:jp7wojtas@gmail.com)

**NEXT AZCOC Meeting – 12 May 2023 – Grandview Terrace – Sun City West** (*Colonnade under construction*)