



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

0800 Hours, Friday, 8 November 2024

MEETING HELD AT THE COLONNADE, SURPRISE, AZ

IN ATTENDANCE:

Arizona Council of Chapters:

President and Newsletter Editor:

Lt Col Nicholas Knight

Vice President and President Catalina

Mountains Chapter: CAPT Charles Vaughan

Immediate Past President, National MOAA

BOD and Chapter Affairs: Col Peter Kloeber

Secretary and Membership: Mrs. Pam Wojtas

Legislative Affairs: Col Tom Waddell

Transition Liaison/ESGR: Lt Col Darren Venters

Chaplain: LCDR James Clenney

Arizona Chapter:

President: CAPT Bruce Kosaveach

Coronado Chapter:

President: LTC Ed Wozniak

1st Vice President: Major Lyle Molloy

Director of Membership: CW2 Allen Goodman

Director, Public Relations:

Mrs. Kaylee Nix-Wozniak

Guest: Mrs. Donna Goodman

Grand Canyon Chapter:

President: Col Rebecca Seeger

Assistant Membership Chair:

Lt Col Joyce Kloeber

Guest: Mrs. Sharise Waddell

Green Valley Chapter:

President: CW03 Jack Bundy

1st Vice President: COL Lee Staab

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Nora Durham

Luke Chapter:

President: Maj Gene Wikle

Secretary and Compliance: Col Mike Kramer

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Mrs. Linda Wolverton

Director At Large: COL Jerry Wojtas

Northern Arizona Chapter

President: LCDR Clyde Meade

Superstition Mountain Chapter:

President: 1LT Greg Moore

Administration

Call to Order: Lt Col Nicholas Knight called the meeting to order at 0804.

Invocation: The invocation was given by LCDR Jim Clenney, AZCOC Chaplain.

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

Attendance/AZCOC Master Roster Update – Mrs. Pam Wojtas

- Mrs. Wojtas confirmed that there was a quorum. She also stated that she is passing around an attendance roster for attendees to sign.
- 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 distribute the updated master roster to everyone.

Approval of Minutes for Spring 2024 AZCOC Meeting – Mrs. Pam Wojtas

- Mrs. Wojtas stated that she had received a few corrections to the minutes. Corrections were made and the final minutes were distributed. She asked the attendees if they had any additional corrections. Hearing none, Mrs. Wojtas asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Col Tom Waddell and seconded by Lt Col Darren Venters. Motion passed. **(Vote #1)**

Opening Comments/Introduction of Guests – Lt Col Nicholas Knight

- Lt Col Knight welcomed everyone to our Fall Meeting. He stated that the Fall meeting is our meeting for the chapters to update everyone on their chapters. He went around the table and asked everyone to state their name and chapter. Other than council officers and staff and chapter presidents, in attendance were the following individuals, some for the first time. Mrs. Linda Wolverson, Luke Chapter, was representing Mrs. Sharon Douglas as the surviving spouse liaison. Lt Col Knight said that effective 1 January Mrs. Wolverson would assume the council's position of surviving spouse liaison. Mrs. Nora Durham, Green Valley Chapter; Major Kyle Molloy, Coronado Chapter; COL Lee Staab, Green Valley Chapter; Mrs. Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Coronado Chapter; Mrs. Sharise Waddell, Grand Canyon Chapter; Mrs. Donna Goodman, Coronado Chapter; Col Mike Kramer, Luke Chapter; Col Jerry Wojtas, Luke Chapter; Lt Col Joyce Kloeber, Grand Canyon Chapter.
- Housekeeping
 - Lt Col Knight asked that cell phones be turned off or placed on vibrate.

- He told attendees that if they needed to get up any time during the meeting to please do so.
- Voting Members – total 15
 - Council Officers (4)
 - Chapter Presidents/Representative (10)
 - Immediate Past Council President (1)

Presentations

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

- If you think all MOAA councils and chapters are equal, they are not. I've been to others and found this to be true. You should all be very proud of your chapter.
- Arizona chapters are what MOAA envisioned for chapters to be.
- There is a new VP for government relations – Maj. Gen. April Vogel, USAF (Ret).
- Several months ago while attending another state's council meeting, I asked how many use the Legislative Action Center and no hands went up. No one knew about the Legislative Action Center.
- The MOAA Scholarship Fund is for children of military families (currently serving, retired, former officers; currently serving and retired enlisted).
- MOAA's Total Force+ "Peoples Conference" will become a reality in October 2025. Its purpose is to help preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Announced that LTC Suzanne Walker will be retiring in January.
- Announced that Maj. Gen. Joseph Lynch, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary will be retiring in January. It was approved that Doug Sanders, civilian attorney for the Air Force will be Maj. Gen. Lynch's replacement.
- MOAA monthly roundtables, Arizona always has more representatives than other states.

MOAA National Update – Col Pete Kloeber

MOAA/Board Perspective

MOAA's Top Challenges

- MOAA Long-Term Financial Stability.
 - MOAA \$168.5M
 - Portfolio: \$150.8M
 - Dues: 33% of Revenue
 - MOAA Scholarship Fund \$172.8M
 - The MOAA Foundation \$293.7K
- MOAA Foundation Stability.
 - Need donations or endowment to help cover program costs.
 - MOAA currently provides Grant to balance budget (~\$500K).

- Endowment Goal \$1M (now \$154.2K).
- Project 2030 to end Grant.
- Sustaining and Increasing MOAA Membership.
 - Overall membership is growing (basic).
 - 363,146 (highest since 2015).
 - Paid membership continues to decline.
- Chapter System Viability.
 - Chapter members are our most involved advocates.
 - Chapter membership is declining.
 - Goal: 1% growth per year above attrition.
 - 2023 accessions: 681 (cover attrition of 308 + 1%).
- Strengthening MOAA's Brand and Reach.
 - Synchronizing and maximizing MOAA engagement is essential to meeting advocacy, revenue, membership, and philanthropic goals.
 - Engagement Score.
 - Number of members who connect, take-action or interact with at least four different touch points: publications, digital engagements, purchase or connect with benefits, utilize services, transition experiences and member service center contacts.
- Maintaining Key Advocacy Positions & Mission Focus.
 - Key earned benefits in health care and compensation continually under budget pressure and non-mission centric distractions.

Tips for Good Governance

- Avoid Conflicts of Interest – disclosure, recusal, or other remedial action.
- Personal Inurement is Prohibited.
- MOAA and those acting for MOAA may not engage in partisan political activities.
 - MOAA may not support or oppose any particular candidate or political party.
 - You may engage in partisan political activities as an individual.
 - MOAA is authorized to lobby and to take action to influence legislation.

Influencing Legislation

- The following activities fall within the authorized purposes of a Sec. 501(c)(19) organization.
 - Reviewing proposed legislation that may affect veterans at both the federal and state level.
 - Testifying before a governmental body with respect to such legislation.
 - Informing members about proposed legislation.

Government Relations

- Enduring Priorities.

- Issues we will always advocate for, until passed, even if they are not among our day-to-day priorities, such as concurrent receipt for combat wounded (Richard Star Act), Arlington National Cemetery access, COLA and restoring BAH to 100%.
- Redline Issues.
 - Issues that we continually monitor and will immediately mobilize the entire association, our membership, the MSO/VSO community, and our allies to protect, such as:
 - Decrements to scheduled pay increases as defined by law.
 - Any new TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fee.
 - TRICARE cost sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.
 - Unequal decrements of compensation and benefits based on rank, age, family composition, retirement status, or disability benefits.

Tiered Approach

- Tier 1
 - Advocacy priorities for the current Congress. This is our continuous and dominant messaging and will be MOAA's Advocacy in Action topics.
 - Actions team will take: Produce engagement plans, actively advocate, develop communication and marketing plans, provide quotes, produce one-pagers, create and promote calls-to-action (CTAs).
- Tier 2
 - Secondary priorities that MOAA is actively pursuing and working.
 - Actions team may take: Provide periodic coverage, possibly produce one-pager and CTAs, and provide quotes, coordinate with Communications Department for news coverage/articles as appropriate.
- Tier 3
 - Issues we are not actively pursuing or working, with no formal messaging.
 - Actions team may take: Sign letters of support, coordinate with Communications Department for news coverage/articles as appropriate.

Criteria for Advocacy Priorities

- Fit with MOAA Mission
- Expertise
- Momentum
- MOAA Member Interest
- Cost

19th Congress Tier 1 Priorities

- Currently Serving:
 - Unaccompanied Housing Improvements
- Retirees/Veterans:

- Ending the Wait Report Priorities
- Family/Survivors:
 - Military Spouse Hiring Act
- DoD Health Care:
 - MHS Stability Through Accountability
- VA Health Care:
 - Caregiving Support Improvements

19th Congress Tier 2 Priorities

- Dislocation Allowance
- 180-Day Rule
- Child and Youth Programs (CYP) Improvement
- Federal Employment of Military Spouses
- Parity on FSAs and parental leave for NOAA, USPHS, Coast Guard Reserve
- CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act
- Restore Retail Pharmacy Network
- TRICARE Parity Issues (TRICARE Young Adult, Coverage Gap)
- Veteran Caregiver RRR Act
- Women Veterans Care Improvements (SAVE Act)

19th Congress Tier 3 Priorities

- Base Pay
- Pay Our Troops Act
- DIC Increase
- Food Security
- EFMP
- Gold Star Definition
- Special Needs Issues Including TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration
- Mental Health Care Access and Copays
- Access to Care
- Dental
- CHAMPVA
- VHA Staffing

HOW Can We Help?

MOAA Legislative Action Center

- Chart (showing number of chapter members registered and number of actions taken) is included with minutes and included with presentations emailed to council officers and staff, chapter presidents, past council presidents and other attendees.

Scholarship Fund – 2024-2025 School Year

- \$10.7M
 - Loans = \$6.4M
 - Grants = \$4.3M
- 1,053 students of military families

The MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Program

- 2022
 - 105 applications approved (89%), \$65K awarded
 - 85% enlisted/48% junior enlisted
- 2023
 - 221 applications approved, \$121K awarded
 - 12 states
- 2024
 - 69 applications approved (90%), \$122K awarded
 - 5 states
- Hurricane Relief >\$260K
 - >235 applications in two weeks – still processing 25; receive 15-20 per day
 - 80% Junior Enlisted (2 dependents)
 - \$1,000 max (reduced from \$5,000 due to resources) with 2-3 Days Turnaround

The MOAA Foundation – Crisis Relief Program

- **Hurricane Relief**
 - “Our home is virtually uninhabitable as Milton destroyed the roof and caused significant structural damage to the house. Water buckled the walls and ceilings causing ceiling fans to collapse. My veteran husband has Parkinson’s Disease and early Dementia. We have no insurance and could use the help. We have been without power for 4 days. Food has spoiled. We are displaced due to the mandatory evacuation and continue to be displaced as our home is uninhabitable. We have needed to obtain tarps and tools to cut up derbies. Damage to our home includes losing our roof, structural damage to our carport and other portions of our home including the lanai. We are uncertain of the plumbing situation as we are unable to get someone out to assess the damage. There are a lot of uncertainty in our future. This disruption has affected my husband’s mental and physical health in addition to our financial well-being. The most important thing to me is making sure we have a safe and healthy place to call home.”

People’s Conference

- Total Force+ - Advancing Solution for the Military & Veteran Community

Total Force+

- Preserving the “All-Volunteer Force”

- Themes
 - Talent management and innovation for both the military and civilian workforce.
 - Leadership development and performance.
 - Quality of life for military families.
 - Enhancing the veterans' and retiree experience.
- Schedule
 - Year 1: 28 – 30 October 2025
 - Venue: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
 - Year 2: 1 – 3 February 2027
 - Year 3: 31 January – 1 February 2028
 - Year 4: 29 January – 1 February 2029 (soft hold)
 - Year 5: 4 – 8 February 2030 (soft hold)
- Website: www.totalforceplus.org effective 1 November

New MOAA Partners

- Consumer Cellular
 - \$25 off when you sign-up using the MOAA promo code: MOAA25.
 - Consumer Cellular will donate \$5 to The MOAA Foundation on your behalf.
 - Call 888-766-1495 and mention MOAA.
- New York Life.

Key Takeaways

- Stabilizing MOAA long term financial position is staff's top priority.
 - Measured approach key to controlling risk.
 - Multiple lines of effort required and ongoing.
- Foundation and Scholarship are integral to MOAA mission success and vice versa.
 - Central to long term membership inclusivity.
- Stabilizing and growing membership is key to many areas – and contributes but IS NOT a standalone fix for revenue shortfalls.
 - Chapter/Council membership replenishment also important.
- **Main Mission** “preserve and protect **earned benefits**” depends on getting all the “pillars” right.

Key Dates – 2024

- November 15-16 **West Regional Leader Training Workshop – 11 States**
 - Renaissance Reno Hotel – Reno, NV
- Monthly: MOAA Roundtables – Last Thursday, 7 pm (Eastern)

MOAA ... and You Make a Difference!

Staff Updates

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

- Proud that 99% of Arizona Chapter members are National MOAA members.
- Amazing that the scholarships awarded by Arizona Chapters amounted to \$79K+.
- Found that Tatum Liability Insurance is lower in cost than AMBA. Three of Arizona Chapters have taken Tatum instead of AMBA.
- “Cheddar Up”, the new online vendor. You will be able to pay chapter dues online, pay for luncheons/dinners, clothing. Three Chapters are currently testing Cheddar Up. Cheddar Up is free to chapters; all fees are paid by MOAA.
- I was able to access the NRT. Found there were 10 names for 10 months for 10 Arizona Chapters. Sent these names to five chapters and notified the other five chapters that there were no names on the NRT for them. Find this hard to believe.
- Value of Chapters – this is very important to National MOAA, the community, surviving spouses and other Veteran Organizations. Partner with other VOSs.
- If you have someone who is going to join National MOAA as a premium or life member, tell them to use the code “Referral” to receive 10% discount.

Chapter Affairs Liaison – Col Pete Kloeber

Chapter Metrics & Topics of Interest

AZ Chapters – Membership

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

AZ Chapters – Percent of MOAA Members

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

AZ Chapters – MOAA Membership

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

Info/Reminders

- Find C&C on website – moaa.org
 - “About MOAA” / “Councils and Chapters”
- Pay Chapter Dues Online – New system/vendor: “Cheddar UP”
 - Not yet operational – **Expect available mid-November**
- Send newsletters to MOAA (blaird@moaa.org)
- MOAA Web Presence for Chapters
 - <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/council-and-chapter-newsletters/council-and-chapter-communications/chapter-web-template/>
 - Need Chapter Alias and Chapter ID
- Opt-in TMN – just enter email
 - 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 1st of each month
 - Not yet operational – **Stay Tuned**
- 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)
- AMBA (former “Mercer”) Ad Campaign - \$100
 - Enroll 1 January – 31 May
 - Contact: dave.shidler@getamba.com (515-365-6632)
- MOAA Vacations Ad Campaign – \$100 – **Stay Tuned!**
 - Enroll: **Expect release at Reno Workshop – 1st 50 chapters only**
 - Contact: jon@MOAAvac.com or mike@MOAAvac.com (800-211-5107)
- Liability Insurance
 - Arizona: 8 of 10 chapters (3 with Tatum Insurance in Phoenix)
 - Required for MOAA Community Outreach Grants (COG)
 - **MOAA working to reduce cost to chapters**

New Committee Module (CM)

- **CM and NRT still in Beta Testing – getting close!**
 - (Part of new Membership Data Base {“Sales Force”})

- **In the Meantime...**
 - Leader changes – send to chapters@moaa.org
 - Member Deaths – send to msc@moaa.org
 - Include member name and MOAA number
- Other actions (new members, contact info changes, etc.)
 - Document and hold until new CM is operational

Committee Module Reminders

- ALL “MOAA Eligible” members MUST be shown as a “Member” (ONLY once)
- DO NOT show “Ineligible” members as a “Member”
 - Only show for leader position
 - Contact MOAA to ensure in database
- 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
- Notify MSC of deceased members, moves, contact info changes
- Update CM for changes in leader positions

Value of Chapter System

- One of MOAA’s “Six Major Strategic Areas”
- Grassroots advocacy support
- Lead advocacy success for MOAA
- Impactful Community Engagement
- Local MOAA branding
- National membership feed
- Additional member communication channel
- Serve local members’ needs and preferences
- Significant contribution to local scholarships (\$300 – 400K/Year; AZ = \$79K+)
- Camaraderie and networking for members

Chapter Members Epitomize Our Greatest Strengths

- *“These members work tirelessly in their communities in so many ways: supporting state and national advocacy efforts, contributing to MOAA Charities and other worthy causes, inspiring the next generation of service members through ROTC and JROTC, and, of course, living our motto to ‘Never Stop Serving’.”*

Lt Gen Brian Kelly, MOAA President/CEO

Chapters

- “Affiliated” with MOAA
- Separate Organization Structure
- Charter = Use of MOAA Name & Brand
- Legal issues/questions – 95% in *Policy & Procedure Guide*
 - <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/MOAA-Publications/Council-and-Chapters-Policy-and-Procedure-Guide-Details.aspx>
- “*Chapters should have liability insurance*”
 - Major General Joseph Lynch, USAF (Ret), MOAA General Counsel
 - AZ = 8 of 10
 - Required for MOAA Community Outreach Grants
 - 2025 Grants: MOAA working to reduce cost to chapters

Did You Know?

- Life Membership converts to surviving spouse
- Premium Membership converts to surviving spouse
 - One year free or remaining time on multi-year ... whichever is greater
- Basic Membership does NOT expire
- Dual Military couple Life Membership
 - One pays the listed amount; the other pays only \$100
- If member joins chapter via MOAA online – still need to add to CM
- If you send new member add to MOAA – still need to add to CM

Value of 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
 - Newsletter – Semi-annual... following Council meetings
 - Emails – Only when beneficial...
 - Round Tables – 1st Fridays @ 1000 hours
 - Chapter Newsletters – sharing
-

Treasurer – Col Charlie Bitner – presentation given by Lt Col Nicholas Knight

2024 Budget – Recap

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

Cash Flow – Year to Date: 1/1/2024 through 10/30/2024

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Net Worth – As of 10/30/2024

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

2025 Budget (Vote #2)

- The budget proposal was presented by Lt Col Nicholas Knight on behalf of Col Bitner. A motion was made by Col Tom Waddell to approve the budget as presented. Col Rebecca Seeger seconded the motion. Proposed budget passed.
-

Legislative Affairs – Col Tom Waddell

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

- ADVS has a new director. I've tried meeting with him, but so far have not been able to see him.
- Vets in Congress is down to 18%.
- Trust in Congress is down to 22%.
- Send the MOAA requested letters even if it doesn't affect you; may be beneficial to active-duty officers and enlisted.

- A general said that with regards to the younger generation, we're trying to have them adopt to us instead of us adopting to their generation.
- We'll wait and see what happens when the new Administration takes over.

AZCOC Legislative Chair

- Track state legislation and encourage chapter support through Chapter LLs.
- Monitor MOAA National legislative priorities.
 - Encourage chapter support via MOAA Legislative Action Center. (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>).
- Develop relationships with AZDVS.

MOAA Advocacy in Action (AiA)

- Current congress is lacking veteran experience.
 - 70% in the 1970s to just 18% in the current 118th Congress.
 - Trust in Congress has gone from 54% to 22% during the same time period according to Pew Research.
- MOAA AiA depends on members.
 - Educate legislative members at all levels.
 - Personalize correspondence to add emphasis.
 - Follow MOAA legislative priorities.
- "Lame Duck" session begins on Tuesday, 12 November.
 - Priorities will include funding for Fiscal 2025.
 - Currently operating on a Continuing Resolution until 20 December.
 - National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
 - "Swan Song" for some members – may change positions.
 - Important legislative actions can be completed.
 - MOAA priorities are found in the Action Center.
- AZCOC Role.
 - Actively support MOAA's priorities through grassroots advocacy by AZCOC members – Legislative Action Center.
 - Chapter Leadership push for active participation.

Arizona Legislative Action

- USPHS pay equity legislation has failed to pass again in 2024.
 - Thanks to the hard work of Lt Col Darren L. Venters, USAF (Ret.), Green Valley Chapter, we have both an Arizona state Senator and Representative signed on to reintroduce legislation.
 - Senator David Gowan (R), District 19.
 - Representative Stacy Travers (D), District 12
- Once introduced, it will be the number one AZCOC legislative priority.
 - Grass roots advocacy is the key to success.
 - New legislative members to be educated on the disparity in the law.

Surviving Spouse Liaison Report – Mrs. Linda Wolverton

Our Lost and Forgotten Heroes

- The Military Spouse, Caregiver and/or Surviving Spouse provides love and support from the home front, gives time and heart of his/her life in peace, conflict, care of family and the returned veteran, as well as helping pave the road when the heavens open to receive our tired veteran.
- The bridge we cross from cheerleader to holding our memories dear may be a long one. But we, MOAA Surviving Spouses, who have walked the walk and crossed the bridge, understand and offer a shoulder and a helping hand to those who are new to our side of the rivers.
- We, MOAA members, all share in support of these, who give back to our country, through our volunteer work with the Military Officers Association of America.

Surviving Spouse Update November 2024

Arizona MOAA Surviving Spouses Celebrate

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024

- We Honor all those who served in the US Armed Forces. Those men and women who stood up and signed up to protect the freedoms that we Americans hold so dear.
- Because of **YOU**, we have kept those freedoms **249 years**, since June 14, 1775.

October 1, 2024 Update – Legislative Surviving Spouse and Caregiver Issues

Congress is on hiatus after passing short term budget until 12-20-24 – Congress returns November 12th

- **Passed** – Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) had \$3B shortfall. Emergency action by Congress **prevented delayed compensation and benefit payments** for 7 million veterans and their survivors who were at risk. Signed into law by the President by the September 20th deadline.
- **Passed** – Military Spouse Hiring Act – This bill expands the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of a qualified military spouse. (The WOTC **permits employers who hire individuals who are members of a targeted group** such as **qualified veterans**, ex-felons, or long-term unemployment recipients **to claim a tax credit equal to a portion of the wages paid to those individuals.**)
- **Passed** – **NDDA 2025** – Military retirees and disabled veterans will receive a **2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to their monthly paychecks**. This is due to the annual COLA, which is tied to inflation.

- **Out of House to Senate** – Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2024 Passed the House. Received by the Senate – HR 2911 read twice referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs. The Act requires an ongoing review of the Group and Veterans Life Insurance Programs (q 5 years) taking into account the Consumer Price Index when determining the new value of the policy.
- **Out of Committee to Full House** – Veterans’ Survivors Act – HR 7150 – Committee making the Act a priority and placing this on the House Agenda. It will improve equitable access to certain benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who served uniformed services and **includes dependents of such individuals**.
- **Introduced in Senate** – S 5149 – Short Title Catching Up Family Caregivers Act of 2024. Allows for an amendment to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow additional catchup contributions for certain family caregivers.
- **Introduced** – Survivor Benefits Delivery Improvement Act of 2024 – HR 7777 – Introduced in September 2024. This is a companion bill to Caring for Survivors Act proposing an increase in Veteran Disability Compensation (DIC) to 55%, equal to other government compensation programs.

Caring for Survivors Act of 2023 – HR 8371 – was S 414/HR 1083

- Introduced on 2/17/23
- Latest Action
 - House – 4-10-24 – Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- These bills would **increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation** paid by the Veterans Administration to surviving spouses **from 43%** of 100% compensation **to 55% to equal other survivor programs**.
- If you are a disabled veteran, this bill could help your own spouse.
- In urgent need of cosponsors – (currently 87). Please **contact your legislators**. Due to the cost involved, it is a prolonged effort much like the widow’s tax offset repeal.

The Dole Act Information – HR 8371

- Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act – [**HR 8371**](#)
- Improve service-earned benefits and offer even wider upgrades to survivor programs, homeless veteran outreach, and many other facets of VA-provided support.
- Such as:
 - **Home-Based Care:** Shifting from facility-based care to home-based care – preferred by veterans, and is lower-cost option for the VA – target regions in need of more home health care workers, and improve coordination.
- **The Bill** allows the VA to
 - Provide grants for **mental health support** for caregivers
 - A review of **respite care services** and effectiveness, and

- Requires caregivers who were **deemed ineligible** for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) be **made eligible for other lines of support**.
- **Better Access to Care** – Veterans with **mobility issues** or other chronic ailments would be able to **find care from local providers**, cutting down on travel demands.
- **Even More Progress** – The bill calls for **greater oversight** of the department's **new electronic records system**, increases funding and flexibility for programs supporting homeless veterans, and strengthens veteran education benefits, ranging from expanded access to benefits for surviving spouses to the relaunch of the [VET-TEC high technology program](#).

Miscellaneous Information

- **TRICARE PHARMACY CHANGES**
 - **Heads Up** – If you find your pharmacy no longer contracts with TRICARE,
 - visit the [Find a Pharmacy page](#) or call TRICARE Pharmacy contractor.
- **Contact Information**
 - Pharmacy Contractor (Express Scripts)
 - 1-877-363-1303
 - <http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare>
 - DOD.customer.relations@express-scripts.com

WHO ARE WE? – *Author: Linda Wolverson*

STRONG WOMEN AREN'T SIMPLY BORN. THEY ARE MADE BY THE STORMS THEY WALK THROUGH. *Anonymous*

- We are strong focused women who do the impossible every single day.
- We married men who were duty bound and determined to get the job done, whether on duty, were honorably discharged, or after military retirement.
- We are more than a label (widows of military men). While you know separation or loss happens, no one can ever prepare you for the hole your spouse leaves in your heart when they're gone. Being strong women, we learned patience and adaptability. We created memories that last forever. We have learned how to live life outside of our husband's shoes. But we kept the 'shoes', the memories, of our terrific experiences.
- We are supportive, loving, loyal, fierce, and reliable.
- **We are military surviving spouses.**

Questions?

- Linda Wolverson, SS
- Linda.wolverson@lukemoaa.org

Old Business

- No old business.

New Business – Lt Col Nicholas Knight

- Council Officer Elections and Installation (Effective Date 1 January 2025) – **(vote #3)**
- Mrs. Pam Wojtas read the list of nominees:
 - CAPT Charles Vaughan – President
 - CAPT Bruce Kosaveach – Vice President
 - Col Charles Bitner – Treasurer
 - Mrs. Pam Wojtas – Secretary
- Lt Col Nicholas Knight asked for a motion to accept the nomination of these officers for the council. A motion was made by Col Tom Waddell and seconded by Major Gene Wikle. Motion passed. Lt Col Knight then swore in the officers.

Chapter Updates (Alphabetical Order)

Arizona Chapter (AZ01)

Leadership Succession

- President – Bruce Kosaveach
 - Completing first year in December 2024
 - Will begin 9th year on the BOD
- First Vice President/Membership Chair – Bob Fiegl
 - Completing third year in December 2024
 - Will remain for a fourth year beginning January 1, 2025
- Second Vice President – Dan Arroyo
 - Completing first year December 2024
 - Has been on BOD for one year

Membership

- 2023 vs 2024
- Numbers – Total 170/122
 - Regular – 142/104
 - Surviving Spouse – 24/18
 - Honorary – 1/1 (does not count in total numbers)
- Year over year analysis
 - Gained 9 new members in 2024
 - Have not offset losses. Delta is -39

- The BOD does not carry delinquent members year over year.

CM Knowledge/Use

- Eagerly awaiting new NRT reports to use for recruiting. Only 8.8% of National MOAA members are chapter members.
- Bob Fiegl – First VP and Membership Chair
 - Very strong in knowledge and use
- Bruce Kosaveach – President
 - Less use but very knowledgeable
 - Will participate in recruiting with NRT

Successes

- Member Engagement
 - Increasing our engagement was a focused goal from last year (2023).
 - Averaged 26% of our members regularly participate in our monthly meeting/luncheon and other events.
 - However, increasing engagement will remain a priority goal in 2025, e.g. MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant event.

Challenges

- New Program for MOAA Community Outreach Grant.
- Five years past successful use of MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant funds.
 - Worked with three non-profits with good community impact results.
- Now need new and fresh idea for utilizing future funds with new non-profits.
 - Increased engagement from our chapter to participate.

Programs/Activities

- 6th Annual Army-Navy Game
 - Second Saturday every December; Partner with SWVCC.
 - MOAA is an organization of officers, not for officers.
 - Held at Famous 48 Grill in Scottsdale.
 - Sold “Five Boards” of 100 squares each last year; \$5 a square.
 - Total \$2,000 income; split profit 50/50 with SWVCC in 2023.
 - Beyond \$, great energy, enthusiasm, and interservice rivalry, we manage to recruit one or two new members every year.

Legislative Activities

- Aggressively encouraged registration Legislative Action Center.
 - Include direct MOAA AiA link in monthly newsletter (shared with CoC).
 - 86 members registered (70%).

- Lee Lange kept members informed of Federal and State issues in monthly newsletter.
 - Urges them to support MOAA calls for action and designated issues.

Goals

Goal Progress from last CoC meeting.

- One 2024 Goal: Increase Member Engagement by 20%
 - 37% increase in members at meetings (51) and events (38).
 - Have made significant improvement.
 - Engages members are involved members.
- We have retained this as our priority #1 Goal from 2023.

New Measurable Goals for 6-12 Months.

- Add eCommerce ability for members to participate in silent auctions, service rivalry board square fundraising, etc.
- Add additional site for donating separately to AZ Chapter Scholarship Fund.

Other

- One Optional Item: Fundraising
 - Silent auctions at Member meetings and happy hour events – \$264.
 - Annual Service Academy Football Games.
 - Fantasy Golf – scratch cards.
 - Dedicated Campaign for our Scholarship Fund (April-May) – \$3,660.

Catalina Mountains Chapter (AZ12)

Leadership Succession

- 2024-2025 officers
 - President – Charles Vaughan
 - 1st VP – Kurt McMillen
 - 2nd VP – Bruce Huffman
- All chapter officer positions are filled
- Election of chapter officers scheduled for fall 2025.
- I will step down as President at the end of 2024 and Kurt McMillen will take over as President January 2025.

Membership

- Numbers
 - Members – 68
 - Surviving Spouses – 6
 - Non-MOAA – 0
 - Total – 74

- Recruitment
 - 7 new members, 1 surviving spouse added this year.
- Retention
 - 97% retention from 2023 – 2024

CM Knowledge/Use

- Knowledge – strong
- Position/Person responsible for CM use: Membership Chair (President also routinely uses CM).

Successes

- Obtained a \$1,600 grant from the MOAA Foundation and \$3,700 grant from Arizona Department of Veterans Services to purchase four laptops to present to low-income veterans.
- Also used grant money to purchase two desktop computers to upgrade the computer lab at Esperanza En Escalante.

Challenges

- Finding a newsletter editor. I'm currently the newsletter editor in order to publish a chapter newsletter.

Programs/Activities

- Provided \$2,000 to support a one-week fall camp for children of Esperanza En Escalante residents, a local non-profit that provides housing and social services for low-income veterans
- 31 participants in the camp – kids and sponsors and a couple of veterans.
- Chapter members donated \$782 and the chapter donated \$1,218.

Legislative Activities

- Appointed a new Legislative Liaison when the previous Legislative Liaison moved to Seattle this spring.

Goals

- November 2023 goal: Complete two work projects at Esperanza En Escalante by the end of 2024.
- Progress: Did not complete any work projects at Esperanza En Escalante.
- New goal: Fund another one-week fall camp at Esperanza En Escalante during the fall of 2025 with \$1,000 in member donations to fund the camp.

Other

- Picked up four high schools from Superstition Mountain Chapter for JROTC awards. Presented JROTC awards at the four high schools this spring – a first for the chapter.
-

Coronado Chapter (AZ02)

Leadership Succession

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| • President: Ed Wozniak | December 2025 |
| • 1 st VP: Kyle Molloy | Standing for Election |
| • 2 nd VP: Tom Hessler | Standing for Reelection |
| • Director Membership: Allen Goodman | Standing for Reelection |
| • Director Legislative: James Clenney | December 2025 |
| • Director Surviving Spouse: Jane Strain | December 2025 |
| • Secretary: Joe Puett | Standing for Reelection |
| • Treasurer: Samantha Carlson | December 2024 |

Membership

- Numbers

	November 2023	November 2024
○ Life Members	81	71
○ Basic & Annual	86	156
○ Surviving Spouse	31	36
○ Honorary	4	5
Total Members	202	268
- Recruitment
 - Membership Director revived, expanded, and focused activities including; acquiring (at last count) 11 new members through chapter presence at the Farmer's Market in the last 3 months. He has made himself available at many appropriate community activities.
 - Thus far this year, we gained 21 Premium Members with the support of MOAA's Distinguished Honor Graduate program.

CM Knowledge/Use

- WAS used extensively by Membership Director before upgrade.
- Approximately 70 new members pending input.

Successes

- Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame
 - Three Chapter Members Nominated in 2024; Three Selected.

Challenges

- Membership Involvement (“STP”).

Programs/Activities

- Increase Name Recognition/Visibility of MOAA.
 - Stand Up 4 Freedom Fest.
 - Ft. Huachuca Wine & Jazz Fest.
 - Sierra Vista West End Fair.
 - Sierra Vista Farmers Market.
 - Sierra Vista 4 Vets.

Legislative Activities

- Weekly Email Blast via MailChimp.
 - Inclusion of State/Local Topics as well as National.
 - Distributed to approximately 650 Members, Retirees and Other Veterans.
 - Provides Statistics, Tracking and Address Maintenance.

Goals

- **2023 COUNCIL MEETING GOAL**
 - Fully develop member’s access to online communication and services.
- **STATUS**
 - Website review completed.
 - Currently getting a professional “facelift”
 - Integration of online payment system.
- **MEASURABLE GOAL FOR NEXT 6-12 MONTHS**
 - Increase meeting participation by 20%.

Other

- **“GO ARMY...BEAT NAVY”**
-

Grand Canyon Chapter (AZ11)

Leadership Succession

- Three Officer and Two Director Positions are up for election in November.
 - President, 1st Vice President, and one Director – **New** candidates.
 - 2nd Vice President and one Director – incumbent candidates.
- New Candidates
 - President – served as a Director, Legislative Liaison, and Social Chair.

- 1st Vice President – first time serving the chapter in an elected position, volunteers for many events.
- Director – first time serving the chapter in an elected position, volunteers for many events.
- Keys to success – constant communication in meetings, newsletter, personal discussions; service mindset; needs of the chapter.

Membership

- Numbers
 - Regular – 112
 - Surviving Spouse – 15
 - Honorary – 2
- Recruitment – Positive
 - From the MOAA lists.
 - During Stand Downs.
 - Member Recruitment – our best tool given the dearth of military installations in Northern Arizona.
- Retention – Positive
 - Primary reasons for leaving – reassigned, move to be near family, death.
 - Very few just **leave** the chapter

CM Knowledge/Use

- CM Knowledge – Strong.
- CM Use – Strong (with exceptions for rollout of new system).
- Positions Responsible – Secretary and President as backup.
- Primary Person Responsible – Col Pete Kloeber, USAF (ret.).

Successes

- Have a full slate of candidates for election this year! Sixty percent are new to the positions!

Challenges

- Rollout of the new MOAA system.
 - Many members use the system to make donations and pay dues. This has caused much frustration as it is not presently an option.
 - General frustration as many of us were engaged in this sort of activity while on active duty. It shouldn't be this hard!

Programs/Activities

- Celebrating our Members' Milestones (pictures included).
 - Lt Col Oliver Cole, USAF, (ret.) – 102

- Surviving Spouse Barbara Dill – 100
- Surviving Spouse Juanita Gillis – 94

Legislative Activities

- Col Tom Waddell, USAF (ret.) was awarded the MOAA Chapter Legislative Liaison of the Year! (picture included).

Goals

- Progress from November 2023 Goal
 - Fill all board positions – we not only did this, but 60% of candidates for office have not held a chapter elected position before! Specifically, our goal was to infuse the chapter officer and committee chairs with new blood and we are doing that!
- One new measurable goal in the 6-12 months
 - This goal was also a 2023 goal that we did not meet in 2024 – grow our chapter membership by 3%. We started 2024 with 127 members and are currently sitting at 127 members. While we did recruit new members, we also lost several members to moving or death.

Other

Community Engagement

- Our members remain very engaged in our community.
 - Four Northern Arizona Stand Downs.
 - Two Buddy Poppy Events in partnership with the VFW.
 - Formerly Homeless Veterans Program.
 - Support of the (finally opening) Flagstaff Veterans Home.
 - Support of the Missing in America Project.
 - Serving on the Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo Foundation Board.
 - Serving at Funerals for Departed Veterans.

Green Valley Chapter (AZ03)

Leadership Succession

- The Green Valley Leadership Succession is determined by our bylaws. We have amended the bylaws to include member spouses for board positions to aid us in more readily maintaining our succession of candidates. Our current Board Secretary is an Auxiliary Spouse.
- Board of Director candidates are slated each November for the upcoming year and presented to the membership during our November Thanksgiving dinner meeting. The Board of Directors is then installed at our Christmas dinner meeting in December.

Nicholas is again visiting this year to swear in our new 2025 Board Members as he did last year.

- The President remains in the position for at least two years. We select a 1st VP who is usually also the Membership Chair and who trains to become President. Our goal is to have a new President and 1st VP elected every two years to maintain a smooth succession.
- The Immediate Past President remains on the board and becomes the Chair of the 501 (c) 3, Scholarship and Military Assistance Board. The Past President also normally takes an additional Board position. In 2025, with loss of our Past President in Chicago, we will be flexible.
- We train our 1st VP in membership and expose him/her to the AZCOC meetings and MOAA Regional Training Workshops for at least a year prior to assuming the Presidency.
- The President and Membership Chair encourage members, both new and old, to take on leadership roles in the Chapter and to recruit, select and slate new board candidates for the following year. We have added a questionnaire to the back of our new member/renewal application form, to allow members to indicate their individual interests in serving in a leadership position.

Membership

• Numbers	<u>As of Oct. 30, 2024</u>
○ National Members (former & retired)	72
○ Surviving Spouses	6
○ TOTAL MEMBERS	78
○ Aux Spouses	30
• Recruitment	
○ New Members this past year	5
• Retention	
○ Losses as result of:	
▪ Moves	6
▪ Health problems, nursing home, inability to attend	4
▪ Deaths	3

NOTES

- We hope to find younger recruits through presentations at family days at our supported units and as many other community events as we can attend.
- Cross-referencing National Members in our catchment area who are not Chapter Members.
- Investigating starting a Quail Creek MOAA Club to help find potential members in our local Robson Community.

CM Knowledge/Use

- STRONG with the old CM; NEW ONE?
- Our Membership Chair is responsible for CM along with President.

- *Our new Membership Chair:* Lee Staab, COL, USA, ret. He will be 1st VP in 2025 and President in 2026

Successes

- We have been very successful in promoting MOAA and our chapter at an increasing number of community events.
- We have encountered successes through membership in the Chamber of Commerce.
- Highly successful Corporate and Community Sponsorship Program.
- Website and Newsletters are professional, informative, and well received.

Challenges

- Continued difficulties in finding younger recruits.
- Acquiring Grants; now that our Grant Writer has resigned, and we are writing Grants as a Committee of Board Members.

Programs/Activities

- Scholarship and educational grant support to local High School JROTC graduates and Veteran Students at the U of AZ. We have been able to provide up to \$10,000 in JROTC Scholarships to four area high schools and \$3,000-\$5,000 in Educational Grants per year. We hope to increase these award amounts this next year if we are successful in increasing funding.

Legislative Activities

- Our Chapter is fortunate to have Darren Venters as our Legislative Director. He continually is in contact with our State Representatives, Senator David Gowan and State Representatives Gail Griffin and Lupe Diaz.
- Senator Gowan introduced legislation to exempt USPHS state income tax from their Active Duty pay. The Bill failed in 2024, but it will be reintroduced in January 2025. He has been working both sides of the aisle to bring successful passage in 2025.
- Darren also has met with our Congressman Juan Ciscomani (who is on the House Committee on Vet Affairs and House Appropriations Committee) several times and is working directly with his Chief of Staff. Several Chapter Board Members also met the Congressman at a recent Chamber of Commerce event and spoke with him and his Senior Advisor about MOAA initiatives.

Goals

- Expand our Corporate Sponsorship Initiative. Our goal is to get 2-4 new corporate sponsors per year to help fund our scholarships and our support to the military community.
- Expand our chapter membership donations through encouraging Qualified Charitable Contributions from our members who have RMD requirements.

- Expand our participation in Community Events.
- Continue to build and develop our leadership succession.
- Become proficient with the new CM.

Other

- Our **“TURKEYS FOR TROOPS”** Program continues to be a successful and rewarding experience. We have been providing Holiday Meals through this Program for years, and it is one of our major annual troop support events. This year we will again provide funds to purchase Commissary Gift Cards for the 162nd Wing of the AZ Air National Guard, the 943rd Rescue Group and the 924th Fighter Group, both USAF Reserve Units. In the past, we bought Commissary Turkeys and presented them to the units, but now we buy Commissary Gift Cards for distribution to help deserving airmen buy their own Holiday Meal for their families. This year we will present each of the three units 20 x \$50 Gift Cards adding up to \$3,000 of Turkeys for Troops Cards for Holiday Meals. We will have our formal presentation ceremonies at the units sometime in early December.
-

Luke Chapter (AZ06)

Leadership Succession

- Gene Wikle, Chapter President, July 2022 – June 2024.
 - Extended term of service one more year to June 2025.
 - Have announced will not seek another term. Have begun search for a new president.
- Recruited a new 3rd Vice President.
 - Dan Merry, Colonel, USAF Retired, former MOAA Vice President for Government Affairs.
 - Recruiting new members to serve on Board of Directors and Luke AFB Community Liaison.

Membership

- Numbers – 159 – declining membership (183 in 2023)
 - Regular – 126
 - Surviving Spouse – 29
 - Non-MOAA – 4
- Recruitment
 - Critical need for chapter recruitment and survival – need MOAA National to provide on an ongoing basis a listing of all MOAA members residing with chapter boundaries.
- Retention
 - Contact any member who does not renew membership.

CM Knowledge/Use

- Waiting for release of new committee module

Successes

- Veterans Relief Grant Fund
 - Received in 2024 - \$46,899 in grants and donations. (Total donations since 2017: \$170,591).
 - Relief Grants awarded in 2024 to date: 31. (Total grants awarded to veterans since 2017: 126).
- Chapter Scholarship Fund
 - Awarded 23 college scholarships in 2024 (\$30,000).
 - Awarded 276 college scholarships since 2001 (\$393,575).
- Chapter Surviving Spouse Program
 - A strong, vibrant program with 29 members. Surviving spouse assistance is provided to a surviving spouse when needed. Monthly luncheons and activities.
- Chapter Special Board of Directors Meeting – October 18th
 - Reviewed chapter goals, strategic plan and action items for continued growth and success of chapter.

Challenges

- Recruiting members to serve as chapter officers and committee chairs.
- Ongoing recruiting effort and better membership record management with MOAA.

Legislative Activities

- Dan Merry, 3rd Vice President will serve as the new chapter Legislative Liaison

Goals

- Recruit and train in the next six months new chapter officers and committee chairs
- Partner with community associations to further promote chapter activities and increase membership. (Partner with – Fighter Country USA & Luke Chapter – Air and Space Association.)

Northern Arizona Chapter (AZ04)

Leadership Succession

- Two-year succession cycle. May serve two terms. Nominating Committee identifies candidates, membership input is encouraged. Election and installation of new officers is held in December
 - President – LCDR Clyde D. Meade, USN, Ret.

- Vice President – Capt. Raymond Jordan, USA, Fmr.
- Secretary – Mrs. Roberta Rice, Spouse
- Treasurer – Lt Col Dick Jonas, USAF, Ret.
- Legislative Affairs – COL Steve Woods, USA, Ret.
- Personal Affairs – Lt Col Bob Wallace, USMC, Ret.
- Membership Chair – LCDR Spencer O’Neal, USN, Ret.

Membership

- Numbers
 - Regular – 46
 - Surviving Spouse – 4
 - Non MOAA - 1
 - Total Members – 50
- Recruitment
 - Chapter members are encouraged to be on the lookout for potential members from among friends, acquaintances, and while interacting in the community.
 - NAC has a meeting notice published in the local newspaper and three smaller area publications.
 - We participate in local community events to get the MOAA and NAC brand in public view. Distribute MOAA Military Officer magazines.
 - Increased our social media presence with an upgraded website: nacmoaa.org and Facebook page at NACMOAA.
 - Tri-fold development.
- Retention
 - We try to offer a variety of projects and community involvement opportunities to keep our members involved in the chapter.
 - The NAC Ladies Luncheon is bi-monthly. A chance for small group conversation and projects like the annual Holiday Card Campaign.
 - Keep the dues and luncheon prices reasonable.
 - Offer a Welcome Get Together prior to the luncheons where members can mingle and chat while enjoying appetizers and beverages.
 - Reach out to members who are ill or alone via call or greeting cards.
 - Recognize member achievements including awards, community service and milestone birthdays.

CM Knowledge/Use

- Membership Chair is familiar with Committee Module.
- President is familiar with CM.

Successes

- Stand Down
- Healing Fields

- Therapy Pet
- Veterans Day Parade

Challenges

- Retention and Recruitment
- Volunteerism
 - Limited to a very small group
 - Participation in upcoming activities remains low

Programs/Activities

- NAC was in charge of the registration table at the Prescott Stand Down for the fifth year in a row. We had a very successful year helping nearly 200 local veterans. Thank you to the NAC members who participated.

Legislative Activities

- Our 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.
- Steve keeps the chapter informed via newsletter, emails, and speaks at our BOD meetings.

Goals

- Progress on goal since last COC meeting
 - Advertising in our newsletter.
- Goals for 2025
 - Increase NACMOAA presence in the area.
 - Work with other Veterans Organizations.

Other

- NAC was in charge of the registration table at the Prescott Stand Down for the fifth year in a row. We had a very successful year helping nearly 200 local veterans. Thank you to the NAC members who participated.

Superstition Mountain Chapter (AZ07)

Leadership Succession

- No formal plan.

Membership

- Numbers
 - Regular – 89
 - Surviving Spouses – 7
 - Non-MOAA - 0
- Recruitment
 - One returning member
- Retention
 - Zero losses

CM Knowledge/Use

- Strong, Membership Chair Position/Person (Responsible for CM)

Successes

- Support for VA Homeless Program, Toys-for-Tots

Challenges

- Recruitment, relying on Chapter Member Sponsors for JROTC Award Presentations

Programs/Activities

- JROTC – currently 18 Units, Hygiene Kits for Homeless Veterans

Legislative Activities

- No Report

Goals

- Existing Goal Progress: Continue recruitment activities.
- New Goal: Recruit 5 new members. Continue programs at current levels.

Tucson Chapter (AZ08)

Membership

- Numbers
 - Regular Members – 29
 - Surviving Spouses – 14

- Non-MOAA Member – 1
- Total – 44
- Committee Module: still under development; we have new members that we cannot add yet.

Successes

- Received two MOAA Grants.
 - Esperanza En Escalante: building roof repair – \$1,000.
 - Army hospitalized veteran, C. Fujimoto: hardship grant – \$1,500.
- Participated in two veteran's day parades.
 - Tucson Estates – Memorial Day Parade.
 - City of Tucson – Veterans Day Parade.
- In the exploratory phase for a possible new satellite in Vail community (southeast of Tucson).
 - Four MOAA members attended initial meeting.
 - One MOAA member continues; it's a struggle.
 - Need MOAA support to identify candidates in area (@ about 100).

Challenges

- Recruiting Needs.
 - Vail area (southeast of Tucson) has over 100 MOAA members.
 - Initial meeting in January to recruit.
 - Sending monthly MOAA notice in local Vail newspaper.
 - Need MOAA support to specifically identify area MOAA members.

Other

Noteworthy Programs

- ROTC Awards: University of Arizona: awarded three scholarships (@\$6,000).
- JROTC: four schools: awarded medals to outstanding cadets.
- Esperanza En Escalante – homeless veterans.
 - Tucson has a seat on the Board since 2019.
 - Periodic donations by members (e.g.; money, clothing, books, etc.)
- Sad note: Shirley Phillips passed away in August 2024; she was publicized in March 2018 MOAA Military Magazine and awarded Surviving Spouse Excellence Award.

Yuma Chapter (AZ10)

Leadership Succession

- The Nominating Committee is currently in-work and have not yet presented their slate to the Secretary.

Membership

- Numbers
 - We currently have 16 Regular, 5 Surviving Spouse and 0 Non-MOAA.
- Recruitment
 - We gained only one member in the past 12 months and that started with the member finding us on Facebook followed by several emails.
- Retention
 - Losses over the last two years can all be attributed to death or health issues; no member simply quit in over four years.

CM Knowledge/Use

- CM knowledge is strong as is CM use/Jim Alder, Membership Chair.

Successes

- The chapter purchased and installed a new U.S. Flag and pole set for Saddles of Joy (a local therapeutic riding program).

Challenges

- Maintaining a sufficient number of able chapter members to carry out chapter activities.

Programs/Activities

- Scholarship Program – After meeting all 2024 scholarship commitments, the fund carried over half of the 2025 requirement.

Legislative Activities

- More chapter members reported accessing the LAC (at least once) than the previous 12 months.

Goals

- No external funding sources for our veteran assistance/scholarship programs yet.
- Run the new JROTC scholarship concurrently with Graduating Senior Scholarship (GSS) for the final year of GSS.

Good of the Order

- Col Pete Kloeber commented on the following items.
 - When reporting your membership numbers, do not include honorary members in those numbers. This is because of the IRS. Next meeting there will be a slide outlining what is a 501 (c)19 and the strict rules.
 - On November 21st, the MOAA roundtable will be on CM/NRT training and “Cheddar Up’. For those of you who will not be available on the 21st, this webinar will be posted on MOAA’s website a couple weeks after the Zoom webinar.
 - If you have a Non-MOAA Member who is serving in a board position, contact MOAA and get that person a customer ID number.
 - In a three-year span, Arizona has had two Legislative and two Surviving Spouses recognized by National as the MOAA Chapter Legislative Liaison of the Year and the MOAA Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison of the Year. Those individuals are Legislative – Col Lee Lange and Col Tom Waddell; Surviving Spouse – Mrs. Sharon Douglas and Mrs. Linda Wolverton.
 - Col Darren Venters was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame on Friday, November 1st.
 - CAPT Chuck Vaughn
 - Proposed having council meetings in three different locations; south, north and central location in and around Phoenix (could be The Colonnade). He asked for a show of hands if the members want to continue meeting at The Colonnade or if they want to meet in different locations. The vote was about evenly divided.
 - Lt Col Nicholas Knight
 - Announced he would be moving to Tennessee.
-

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Mrs. Pam Wojtas to email copies of all presentations.

- **Complete** – Emailed presentations prior to distribution of minutes.

Action Item #1 – CAPT Chuck Vaughn will pursue locations and costs involved in having the council meetings in different locations.

Adjourn (Vote #4)

- A motion to adjourn was made by Lt Col Nicholas Knight and seconded by Major Gene Wickle. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1422.

Respectfully submitted.

Pam Wojtas
AZCOC Secretary
Phone Number: 623-544-4477
Email: jp7wojtas@gmail.com

NEXT AZCOC Meeting – 2 May 2024 (Location TBD)

Thursday, 7 November 2025 – Speaker, Lt Col Nicholas Knight

Lt Col Knight had a few comments before his slide presentation (see slide presentation below comments).

- How many organizations get new members?
- Engagement has declined in areas such as organizational meetings, attendance at meetings, and interacting face-to-face in communities.
- Generational succession accounts for about half of this change.
- What Arizona is doing now in Chapters is not working as far as getting new members who want to be engaged. Yuma is the perfect example for chapter membership dropping.

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert D. Putnam (A Tip-of-the-Iceberg Introduction)

Preface

- In *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Putnam discusses the decline of social engagement during the twentieth century.
- He shows that social capital and engagement have declined in areas such as organizational membership, attendance at religious services and club meetings, and interacting with others face-to-face in communities.
- He posits several explanations for this decline and argues that generational succession accounts for about half of the overall change.

Social Capital

- Social Capital is a term that refers to the way social bonds make people's lives more productive; it represents the fellowship, social intercourse, and goodwill that occurs from a social unit.
- Increasing social capital is both a private good and a public good, benefiting individuals, communities, and nations.
- An important part of social capital is reciprocity, which in this instance is defined as giving to another, without knowing when or if the favor will be returned.

American Society in General (1)

- American society is declining in civic participation and social capital.
- Fewer members participate socially now as compared to the middle of the twentieth century.
- Civic engagement has long been a part of American society; as a democracy, people have been expected to be involved in their nation and communities by voting and participating in political discussions.
- Religious and other voluntary organizations have often been the lifeblood of American society by providing social connections and helping those who need it.

American Society in General (2)

- Social capital hasn't always been strong.
- In the Gilded Age (late 1870s – late 1890s) and the Progressive Era (late 1890s – early 1920s) Americans witnessed social capital in decline; they responded by forming new organizations and ways of participating to elevate it.
- However, the last several generations have increasingly focused more on the individual than the collective and have not been involved to the same degree that previous generations have.
- Materialism also increased over this period.

Americans in the Mid-Twentieth Century

- The peak in social capital during the twentieth century occurred at mid-century when Americans had just come out of the second world war, and America was booming.
- During the middle of the century, more people were engaged in civic affairs than ever before. This was largely the legacy of the Progressive Era, when people created new organizations to increase social capital.
- The average American at mid-century voted, attended club meetings, and religious services, and was generally trusting of other people.

Americans in the Latter Twentieth Century

- Social capital declined in the last half of the twentieth century.

- The decline in social capital has led to less participation in civic and other organizations, and contributed to greater health problems, including an increase in suicide and depression.
- Americans are also experiencing more social isolation and spending more time in solitary activities, such as watching television and commuting long distances to work each day.
- The average American is less likely to vote, attend club meetings, volunteer, or give money to charity than in earlier times.

Baby Boomers and Generation X

- The current decline in social capital began with the baby boom generation (1946 – 1964) who were more focused on the individual.
- Baby boomers are less likely to get involved in clubs, attend religious services, vote, or volunteer than older Americans.
- The decline that began with the baby boomers has only increased with Generation X (1965 – 1980).
- Individuals from Generation X have been even more focused on the individual, more materialistic, and are also less likely to attend meetings, vote, volunteer, give to charities, and trust others.

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert D. Putnam

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