



Never Stop Serving!

Arizona Council of Chapters Newsletter – Fall 2025

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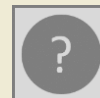
About Us

Who We Are. The Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), is a dynamic organization of over 1,000 active, retired, and former officers of the United States uniformed services, and surviving spouses thereof. The AZCOC—comprised of [nine chapters](#)—was chartered on 6 Jun 1975 and incorporated in the state of Arizona on 30 Sep 1992.

Vision. MOAA is recognized as Arizona’s most committed and effective advocate for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, former, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services of the United States and their families and survivors.

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

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



President *Page 1 of 2*

It is my honor to serve as the president of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Arizona Council of Chapters. The council consists of nine great MOAA chapters, located throughout the state of Arizona, and the council staff. I am proud of each of these chapters and what they have accomplished this year.

MOAA chapters are composed of active, retired, former and National Guard and reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

I used the term uniformed services vice armed services for MOAA membership because it specifically refers to the five armed services (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Space Force), plus the Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned officer corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These are the eight federal uniformed services that commission officers as defined by Title 10 of U.S. Code.

Legislative advocacy is a major focus of MOAA. The nine Arizona chapters encourage their members to use MOAA's Legislative Action Center to contact their representatives and senators in Washington, D. C. to encourage passage of legislation that benefits servicemembers (officers and enlisted personnel), veterans, and family members. Using MOAA's Legislative Action Center, users—which by-the-way includes MOAA members and non-MOAA members—"can easily identify and contact their legislators, support MOAA-backed bills, and send messages advocating for military pay, benefits, health care, and much more" (<https://moaa.quorum.us/FAQ/>). I encourage you to use MOAA's Legislative Action Center to advocate for passage of legislation benefiting →



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servicemembers (officers and enlisted personnel), veterans, and family members. As I write this there are 21 active advocacy campaigns listed on MOAA's Legislative Action Center's website. If you haven't used the Legislative Action Center before or it has been a while since you used it, I encourage you to visit it soon using the URL above—today if possible.

Legislative advocacy is not restricted to national legislation coming out of Washington, D.C. Arizona Council members are also involved in advocacy of proposed State of Arizona legislation. Tom Waddell, in his Legislative Chair article, lists proposed state legislation that council members can advocate for, and lists who to contact to advocate for passage of the legislation. Legislative advocacy is important and is something MOAA members are very good at.

Chuck Vaughan
AZCOC President



Legislative Chair Page 1 of 2

MOAA National Legislative Priorities

A continuing resolution was signed into law on Nov. 12, ending the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history. The measure, which passed the House 222–209 after clearing the Senate two days earlier, keeps the government funded through Jan. 30, 2026. While this marks a step toward rebuilding trust between lawmakers and the uniformed services and veteran communities, much more work remains.

MOAA continues to push for meaningful, long-term solutions and remains unwavering in its commitment to advocate for those who serve and have served. Our most pressing legislative priorities are outlined on the Legislative Action Center (LAC): <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.

We encourage all members to take a few minutes to visit the site, review the issues, and make your voice heard. And don't stop there—share the LAC with family and friends so they can lend their voices as well. It's one of the most impactful ways they can say, "thank you for your service!"

As General Kelly reminds us:

"Every voice matters. And the more members who participate, the more powerful we can become."

Your voice truly makes a difference—sign in today, take action, and encourage others to join you!



Legislative Chair Page 2 of 2

Arizona Legislative Action

Request to Speak (RTS) Modernization Update

I recently discussed proposed changes to the RTS registration system with our District 7 Senator, Wendy Rogers. She expressed support for the change and, while we were speaking, texted the Senate Chief of Staff to raise the issue. We may finally be making inroads toward reform. Our goal remains clear—to allow online RTS registration statewide, making the system accessible to all Arizonans.

Representative Stacey Travers, House Minority Whip, also strongly supports this effort. She explained that the RTS process falls under the oversight of the House and Senate majority leaders, who currently have reservations about changing it. The Veterans Caucus is exploring a possible workaround to help those outside the Phoenix area complete registration, and I'll share updates as they become available.

In the meantime, please contact your legislators and urge them to support modernization of the RTS registration process. Your voice can help open this vital avenue of civic participation to all Arizonans.

Tom Waddell
AZCOC Legislative Chair



Treasurer

Council finances continue to be healthy. There is nothing particularly notable in this year's report since most of what went out and in was reflected in our budget. As noted in May, we were given grants to cover renewing ZOOM and for travel reimbursement. Our officers have been out visiting chapters around the state, and we have continued to use travel monies more than in some past years. Notwithstanding, our balance is strong, and we will begin 2026 in a very sound position. During the fall meeting, the council budget was presented and passed.

The Secretary and I will be putting together the numbers for dues based on the tallies we receive from MOAA as of the first of the year, and I will be sending out those requests in early January.

Charlie Bitner

AZCOC Treasurer



Secretary

Council Officers & Staff, Chapter Presidents, Past Council Presidents – Part of my responsibility as Council Secretary is to maintain a master roster for the council. This roster lists the Council Officers & Staff, Past Council Presidents, Chapter Presidents and the officers for all the chapters.

I know many of our chapters elect new officers in December and install them either then or in January. Please be sure to send me your new chapter roster when this takes place. I will use your updated roster to update the AZCOC Master Roster.

Also, please send me updates to your roster as they happen. I continually update the master roster. Depending upon the change, I may or may not send out a new roster to everyone.

At all council meetings, I pass around the master roster and ask for updates or changes. After the council meeting, I update the master roster with the updates and changes I received at the meeting and then send out the master roster to the Council Officers and Staff, Past Council Presidents and the Chapter Presidents.

I appreciate your assistance in helping me to keep the master roster up-to-date. Thank you.

The spring AZCOC meeting will be on Friday, 8 May 2026; more information forthcoming when details are confirmed.

Pam Wojtas

AZCOC Secretary



Surviving Spouse Liaison *Page 1 of 4*

I am truly humbled and grateful for this incredible honor of being selected become your AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison. I accept this position with gratitude and a commitment to serve to the best of my ability. To step into the shoes of a knowledgeable, kind, and just plain terrific liaison, Sharon Douglas, makes me nervous, I accept this position with gratitude and a commitment to serve to the best of my ability.

Legislation. Now that Congress is back in session, new opportunities for the following bills are presented:

- H.R.2055 - 119th Congress (2025-2026) The Caring for Survivors Act of 2025. This bill would increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation paid by VA to surviving spouses from 43% of 100% disability compensation to 55%. The bill reduces, from 10 years to 5 years of total disability, in order for a survivor to qualify for benefits; and specifies the amount that is payable to survivors of veterans who were rated totally disabled for a period of less than 10 years before their death.
- H.R.2148 Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. This legislation acknowledges caregivers' invaluable contributions while addressing the significant economic and emotional burdens they face, by offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities.
- S.1027 and H.R.2033 – Military Spouse Hiring Act (identical bills). This bill is aimed at incentivizing employers to hire military spouses by expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.
- Pact Act Surviving Spouse (Information updated with additional diagnoses)
 - Male breast cancer and urethral cancer, additional blood cancers, and new conditions like hypertension →



Surviving Spouse Liaison *Page 2 of 4*

and [Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance \(MGUS\)](#) for Agent Orange exposure. Other additions include more presumptive conditions related to burn pits, like various respiratory, gastrointestinal, and head cancers. Surviving spouses may now submit claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if their spouses had any of the conditions on the expanded list. Go on www.va.gov for other presumptive conditions from Agent Orange and other exposures.

- Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 and were exposed to toxic substances will be eligible to enroll in VA health care starting March 5.
- Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the U.S. will also be eligible to enroll. Veterans eligible for VA healthcare under these authorities do not have to apply for VA benefits before enrolling.

Updates. Luke Chapter Programs/Surviving Spouse Program tab on the Luke Chapter webpage: moaaluke.org.

- Caregivers
 - Dealing with [PTSD](#) issues in caring for your loved one.
 - [Respite Care](#) and [Tips](#)
 - [Our Thinking Changes as We Age](#)



Surviving Spouse Liaison *Page 3 of 4*

- [Planning](#) for the Loss of Your Loved One
 - Understanding what documents are important, what passwords are used, what are the ordinary household maintenance bills, what are bills that are unique.
 - What are your and your spouse's wishes for care
 - What are your and your spouse's wishes for end-of-life matters
- [Wills and Trusts](#)
- Casualty Assistance Programs for the eight uniformed services
- Casualty Assistance documents
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) 1-800-959-8277.
- IRS [tax preparation assistance](#) for new surviving spouses
- Gold Star information
- Planning for [your own death](#) as a widow/er
- Military Officer Association of America ([MOAA](#)) References

Resources. For more information about surviving spouse issues or to join our Virtual Chapter, check out these sites:

- MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. The chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month-every other month is a business meeting with a speaker, and the other months are an informal social gathering →



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 4 of 4

to exchange information and ideas. Download a membership application at: mssvc02@gmail.com

- Facebook. These are three sites that deal with surviving spouse issues. Ask questions, get answers and stay informed about bills and proposals affecting our group.
- Luke Chapter Website. Casualty Assistance Programs Information (one website) for all: Army, Air Force, Space Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, NOAA, USPHS
- National MOAA Publications:
 - Help Your Survivors Now, a guide to Planning Ahead
 - Estate Planning Guide
 - Turning the Corner: Surviving the Loss of a Loved One
- [Be Connected](#)

Having walked the walk, I understand that many questions may be raised in your mind at a time when thinking completely through things may be difficult. I am here to listen and discuss possible answers or directions should you need me. Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a wonderful new year in 2026.

Linda Wolverton

AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison



Transition Liaison

- The Transition Liaison (TL) program is the successor to MOAA's The Officer Placement Service (TOPS)
- The TL program exists to provide professional transition guidance and support for MOAA members and spouses
- The mission of MOAA TL is to compile, publicize, and disseminate job opportunities via its network of industry, MOAA chapters, military leaders, veteran service organizations, and other MOAA stakeholders
- MOAA TL AZ is an arm of National MOAA that specifically serves the AZ MOAA community
- MOAA TL AZ network is comprised of business and industry executives and other professionals that routinely provide notices of job opportunities
- MOAA chapters are viewed as primary career and geographic resources that can also potentially provide needed "sponsor" assistance
- TL Resources
 - MOAA Career Center Website: www.moaa.org/careers
 - MOAA Career Networking Group on LinkedIn
 - TL AZ contact Information (Darren Venters): dventers@msn.com

Darren Venters
AZCOC Transition Liaison



Chapter Affairs Page 1 of 2

As a reminder, our Council has two Chapter Affairs representatives to cover the northern and southern parts of the state. Below is the geographical distribution of our nine chapters, the respective Chapter Affairs representatives, and their contact info:

North

*Chapters: Arizona, Luke, Northern Arizona,
and Grand Canyon*

Col Pete Kloeber, USAF (Ret)

pkloeber@earthlink.net

928-890-7500

South

*Chapters: Catalina Mountains, Coronado,
Green Valley, Tucson, and Yuma*

LCDR Jim Clenney, USN (Ret)

j2k2c4@gmail.com

520-234-5286

The purpose of the two representatives is to help our chapters however needed (governance, administration, Committee Module, programs, policies, procedures, etc.). The intent is not to take the place of our chapters contacting MOAA Councils and Chapters, but to provide another and local source for assistance. You are certainly encouraged to always contact MOAA Councils & Chapters at any time. The idea is to simply learn from – and help – each other. We stand ready to assist you with any issue. If we do not have the answer or resolution, we will find it.



Chapter Affairs Page 2 of 2

Closing of the Superstition Mountain Chapter

The Board of Directors of the Superstition Mountain Chapter (SMC) voted to dissolve the Chapter effective the end of May 2025. As a result, Arizona now has nine chapters. The Council at its semiannual meeting on 2 May 2025 established a small committee to work the issue of reallocating the zip codes from the SMC catchment area to the most appropriate chapters. The following individuals worked this initiative:

- CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Vice President, AZCOC, and President, Arizona Chapter
- Col Pete Kloeber, Chapter Affairs, AZCOC
- Maj Gene Wikle, President, Luke Chapter
- COL Kurt McMillan, President, Catalina Mountains Chapter

Pete Kloeber

AZCOC Chapter Affairs



Chapter Highlights *Page 1 of 9*

Arizona Chapter. On 8 July, the chapter again partnered with three veteran supporting area non-profit organizations – Youth for Troops, US Vets-Phoenix, and Veterans First, Ltd. For their annual MOAA Foundation Outreach Grant Program.

Seven chapter members along with members of the aforementioned organizations gathered at the Youth for Troops facility in Anthem to prepare this year's donations packages—all together generating:

- 25 backpacks with school supplies and personal notes for the named recipients
- 50 food packages for troops deployed overseas
- 25 hygiene packs for troops deployed overseas
- 15 “move-in packs” for homeless veterans transitioning to independent living
- 115 veteran families directly impacted



Chapter Highlights *Page 2 of 9*

Catalina Chapter. The Oct chapter luncheon's speaker was COL Tim Tarris USAF (Ret). Tim talked about his 2024 "Centennial Flight" commemorating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Air Service's first world circumnavigation (accomplished over the course of six months back in 1924). Tim and a younger aviator companion tried to duplicate the event (but in a more current aircraft and 100 years later, of course).

Their extensive planning worked well until they got to Peru where they met a bureaucratic roadblock. The pair did have State Department approval and official consent from all countries enroute, but officials in Peru "changed their mind" after the flight started. As Tim said, "The situation was very frustrating and very expensive". Tim and his copilot were sadly unable to complete the circumnavigation but despite the adventure's ending, those in attendance

were totally captivated by this firsthand account of the excitement and frustration of their trip.



Chapter Highlights *Page 3 of 9*

Coronado Chapter. As a part of the chapter's efforts to recognize outstanding young men and women in the community, we recently had the honor of presenting the MOAA JROTC Award to Cadet 1LT Kyla Gross of the

Tombstone JROTC detachment for her outstanding citizenship, personal responsibility, and service to the community as a member of the detachment. Congratulations, Kyla!



A sad reality of our time is that among those in our local community in the greatest need, are veterans and their families. To specifically target those needs, the chapter established a partnership with the VFW, Vietnam Vets, WACS and several other local veteran support organizations, to maintain a “Veteran’s Support Fund” to allow the chapter to aid and assist deserving veterans wherever and however we can. We can’t do everything, but we can certainly do something, and sometimes the smallest investment can reap the largest dividend.



Chapter Highlights *Page 4 of 9*

Grand Canyon Chapter. The chapter enjoyed a full and meaningful Veterans Day week filled with community outreach and well-deserved honors.

The week began with co-sponsoring the Veterans Day Tailgate with the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Veteran and Military Service Center. More than 50 veterans enjoyed a free meal and tickets to the 8 Nov Military Appreciation Game. NAU President Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera and former Navajo Nation Jonathan Nez also



attended, adding to the special atmosphere. The tailgate was awarded “Tailgate of Game”!

On Monday, 10 Nov, the chapter partnered with the Flagstaff American Legion to host a Red Cross Veterans Day Blood Drive. Chapter members volunteered throughout the event, staffed a MOAA information table, and donated critical blood supplies.

That evening, chapter President Col Tom Waddell, USAF (Ret) served as a featured speaker at the NAU Veterans Day Flag Tribute. The ceremony included Native American dancers, NAU choir performances, guest speakers, and a moving outdoor Taps ceremony, streamed live on NAU TV and YouTube.

Veterans Day week highlighted the chapter’s dedication to honoring service and supporting Northern Arizona’s veteran community—living out MOAA’s proud motto: “Never Stop Serving!”



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Green Valley Chapter. The chapter worked together with the Tucson Veteran's Administration Hospital's PTSD Program to design, develop, and produce 150



Challenge Coins to support this unique and very valuable VA Hospital program. A large donation from Lisa Larkin, Esq, one of the Green Valley Chapter's Corporate Sponsors, made it possible for the Chapter to develop, finance, and donate these coins for the program's use. Program Administrator, Dr. Daniel Moritz, was highly appreciative and stated these coins would greatly enhance the success of their program. The Challenge Coins will be presented to those Veterans who successfully complete the program requirements specifically designed to help PTSD victims.



Chapter Highlights *Page 6 of 9*

Luke Chapter. The chapter partnered with the Pebble Creek Men's Nine Hole Golf Association to provide much needed food relief to junior Airmen and their families at Luke Air Force Base.

Together they collected over 1000 non-perishable food items and cash to purchase 111 Commissary gift cards that were distributed to over 200 junior Airmen and their families on 20 Nov, just in time for Thanksgiving. These items will supplement the donated frozen turkeys collected by the annual Luke AFB First Sergeants Association's "Turkeys for Troops" program, providing a full Thanksgiving menu to young, enlisted men and women in need.

"We have a variety of programs that benefit our Arizona military and veteran community, but 'Turkeys for Troops' is one of the most rewarding, knowing its immediate impact on families." said Gene Wikle, Luke

Chapter President. "We're very proud of the positive impact that we make on the lives of real people right here in the West Valley."



Chapter Highlights *Page 7 of 9*

Northern Arizona Chapter. In Sept, Chapter President, Clyde, Meade, along with chapter members Bob Wallace, Michael McShea, and Steve Woods participated in the veteran standdown at U.S. VETS in Prescott. Despite getting rained out halfway through the event, they provided a great deal of much needed assistance to many veterans prior to the storms.

Chapter members Clyde Meade, Bob Wallace and Alex Torrance attended the 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, at which Bob was part of the Birthday Cake cutting ceremony.

The chapter again had the honor of participating in this year's Veterans Day Parade (eight years in a row). It's always rewarding to be a part of a community event that honors military service with the added benefit of promoting name recognition for MOAA.



Chapter Highlights *Page 8 of 9*

Tucson Chapter. In April the chapter awarded \$2000 scholarships to three ROTC students (Air Force, Army and Navy) at the University of Arizona. The chapter also presented three MOAA leadership awards to ROTC students. Chapter members worked with



the Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC units to determine the cadets/midshipmen who could really benefit from a MOAA scholarship or leadership award.

Chapter members also participated in JROTC award ceremonies this year at Cienega, Cholla, Desert View and Flowing Wells high schools, awarding MOAA medals to four very deserving young men and women.

Early this summer the chapter received a MOAA Foundation grant of \$1030 to support the activities of the Retired Activities Office on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The chapter used those funds to purchase supplies used by the Retired Activities Office to perform this mission of supporting military retirees.

The chapter has meetings scheduled for the fourth Thursday of Jan through May 2026; check the chapter's website at <https://TucsonMOAA.org> for details.



Chapter Highlights *Page 9 of 9*

Yuma Chapter. The chapter participated in the Yuma Veterans Day Parade on 11 Nov with chapter member COL Rob Filbey, USA (Ret), driving his vintage Citroën 2CV as the chapter parade vehicle. After the parade, COL Filbey volunteered to serve as the Master of Ceremonies and administer the Oath of Enlistment to new recruits scheduled to go to boot camp (This was a last-minute change to the ceremony since the active-duty officers previously scheduled were prevented from attending due to the government shutdown.). Later that week, chapter members visited local nursing homes/rehabilitation centers where they presented lap quilts to their veteran residents.



Topics of Interest *Page 1 of 8*

[MOAA Looks Ahead: Building the Next Century of Service](#) by Tony Lombardo

MOAA may have just hosted [the largest conference in its history](#), but at the annual meeting of the membership in National Harbor, MD, on 30 Oct, leaders focused on the future.

“I think you will share the feeling of great pride I have of MOAA’s accomplishments and what it does every day for the uniformed services community...but we can’t rest on past accomplishments,” said Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, USMC (Ret), chairman of MOAA’s board of directors.

The association will turn 97 on 23 Feb, and the centennial is just around the corner.

One of the things as board members we are trying to do is to make sure the organization is on a steady footing for the next 100 years,” he said.

TotalForce+ will be key. The inaugural conference held 28-29 Oct in National Harbor, MD, had more than 2,500 registered attendees, gained hundreds of new members for the association, and provided two days of panels, exhibitions and conversations aimed at improving the lives for members of the entire uniformed services community and strengthening our nation’s defense.

MOAA’s board unanimously agreed to proceed with plans for a second conference, 1-2 Feb, 2027. In 2026, the association will host several smaller TotalForce+ events.

The inaugural event “gave us a chance to show what the power of our association – your association – was →



Topics of Interest Page 2 of 8

able to do,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret).

Kelly said TotalForce+ is able to contribute to every one of MOAA’s six areas of focus to ensure its longevity. The focus areas are:

- Maintaining key advocacy positions and mission focus
- Long-term financial stability
- The MOAA Foundation’s stability
- Sustaining and increasing MOAA membership
- Strengthening MOAA’s brand and reach
- Council and Chapter System viability

Advocacy Update

MOAA’s government relations team held 217 meetings with members of Congress over the past year, Kelly said, advancing the association’s legislative priorities. Recent wins include:

- A [14.5% pay raise](#) for junior enlisted personnel (E-1 to E-4).
- Support for improved military housing, including a [\\$2.9 billion restoration](#) of the Basic Allowance for Housing.
- Continued [monitoring of the PACT Act](#), which has approved more than 1.4 million claims for toxic →



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exposure-related illnesses.

- Advocacy leading to renegotiated pharmacy network contracts protecting rural TRICARE beneficiaries.
- Passage of the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Acts, [enhancing caregiver and veteran support](#).

MOAA also continues to push for the Major Richard Star Act, which would extend concurrent receipt to combat-injured retirees who left service before 20 years.

“We will not stop fighting for those who earned every bit of their benefits in uniform,” Kelly said.

Financial Health

Financially, MOAA remains strong, Kelly said. The organization earned an A+ audit rating from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP for 2024 with investment portfolios up 10.5% (managed by Goldman Sachs) and 11.8% (State Street Global Advisors for the Scholarship Fund).

Revenue from new partnerships, insurance programs, and membership campaigns contributed to a stable fiscal outlook.

MOAA Charities: Expanding Impact

The MOAA Foundation distributed \$230,000 through its [Crisis Relief program](#) and \$130,000 in [community outreach grants](#), supporting chapters’ local efforts. The foundation is only 11 years old but continues to →



Topics of Interest *Page 4 of 8*

mature. It recently received a \$300,000 bequest, its second largest ever.

“It tells us that our MOAA members are recognizing the value of giving to the foundation,” Kelly said.

[The scholarship fund](#), in its 76th year, saw record demand, with 1,880 applications and more than \$18 million awarded in loans and grants for children in uniformed services families pursuing higher education.

“These programs demonstrate that MOAA serves everyone who serves – across all ranks and branches,” Kelly said.

Membership Growth

Outreach remains strong as MOAA looks at new ways to reach new members, Kelly said. MOAA has expanded efforts among the service academies. Graduates and seniors at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, for example, accounted for 1,000 new basic members this year.

“We expect that number to continue to grow and as we institute similar programs with other service academies,” Kelly said.

MOAA continues to leverage national holidays and May’s Military Appreciation Month with targeted membership drives. And new this year, [there is a gift option](#) so you can buy a membership for a relative, neighbor, or friend.

MOAA has also expanded member benefit discount options including [Veterans Healthcare](#), a Medicare Advantage plan catering to veterans, and Aura to [protect against identity theft](#).



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Engagement Brand Outreach

In addition to TotalForce+, MOAA hosted 37 other in-person and virtual events in 2025 totaling 11,700 attendees. Every eligible webinar signee instantly becomes a MOAA member.

[Military Officer Magazine](#), a publication exclusive to Premium and Life members, earned best cover design at this year's Folio Awards, which Kelly described as "the Oscar awards of publishing."

Chapters and Councils

[MOAA's chapter network](#) remains one of its most powerful advocacy tools. With 169 chapters and councils recognized as part of the [Levels of Excellence](#) award program and 235 honored for [outstanding communications](#), the grassroots system continues to amplify MOAA's message nationwide.

Our virtual chapters continue to expand. The [Public Affairs and Communication Professional Chapter](#), approved last October, contributed to a 10% increase in virtual chapter members in 2025.

CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), serves as the public affairs chapter's president and is past president of MOAA's Virginia Council of Chapters. He received the annual Chairman's Award during the annual meeting for what Waldhauser described as "incredibly strong bipartisan relationships in support of the legislative priorities while leading our Virginia Council" as well as his assistance in providing communications support across MOAA's council and chapter network.



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Waldhauser closed the meeting by noting MOAA's focus on the long game: "As we approach our 100th year, we're setting the foundation for the next hundred. Relevancy, stability, and service to all members – that's what drives us forward."

[VA: Benefits for 'Legacy' Caregivers Safe Until 2028](#) *by Kevin Lilley*

Participants in the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can remain enrolled through 30 Sept, 2028, as work continues on possible changes to eligibility criteria, the department announced in a 26 Sept email.

The decision allows these caregivers to maintain access to a range of critical benefits, including a stipend some worried could be cut or withdrawn completely as new criteria took effect. The VA had pledged to keep legacy participants enrolled through 30 Sept, 2025; the new rule, [published 29 Sept in the Federal Register](#), adds three years to that extension.

"While the PCAFC's future remains uncertain, MOAA is grateful to the VA for taking this step to provide some clarity and reassurance to legacy program participants," said CDR René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations. "We will remain involved with the VA's efforts to establish new criteria as part of our ongoing work to provide those who care for our veterans with the resources and support they need and deserve."



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[PCAFC programs](#) include respite care, education and training, mental health counseling, and some travel expenses. Primary family caregivers under the program qualify not just for a stipend, but may access healthcare coverage and some legal and financial services.

The recent extension covers all legacy participants, even those who “received a preliminary determination that they did not meet the [new] criteria or were determined eligible but at a reduced stipend amount,” according to the VA’s announcement.

Past, Present, and Future of Caregiver Support

PCAFC came online in 2011 and was designed to support caregivers of post-9/11 veterans. Plans were made to expand the program in 2018 to caregivers “of eligible veterans who have a serious injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty” prior to 11 Sept, 2001, according to the Federal Register rule update.

This move came with new eligibility criteria for all program participants, triggering enrollment issues, delays, court challenges, and a series of other problems that resulted in multiple deadline extensions.

Work on the new criteria restarted in earnest in 2022. MOAA and 11 other advocacy groups wrote to the White House in 2024 asking then-President Joe Biden to [release the new criteria](#) “as soon as possible,” as further delay “would only serve to prolong the strain that so many veterans and caregivers have felt while PCAFC continues to fall short of its intent and potential.”



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While the criteria come into focus, MOAA has continued its work on behalf of caregivers on multiple levels, including the halls of Congress. The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act, [part of MOAA's 2025 Advocacy in Action campaign](#), would improve and expand benefits offered to PCAFC participants, to include:

- Reimbursement for licensure fees and access to VA training modules for continuing education.
- Employment assistance for caregivers reentering the workforce.
- Retirement planning services, along with a study looking at the establishment of a retirement plan specifically for caregivers.

You can help MOAA make its case by [reaching out to your lawmakers](#) and asking them to support this bipartisan legislation.



AZCOC Meeting Information

Spring 2026: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 8 May 2026 with a social/or dinner the evening prior. Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ (To Be Confirmed)

Fall 2026: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 6 Nov 2026 with a social/or dinner the evening prior. Location: TBD



Photo Gallery Page 1 of 3

Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



AZCOC Meeting
3 May 2019



AZCOC Meeting
7 May 2021



Arizona State
Veterans Home
(Yuma)



National MOAA
LOE Presentation
15 Oct 2021



AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2019



AZCOC Meeting
6 May 2022



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Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



**National MOAA
LOE Presentation
28 Oct 2022**



**Advocacy in Action
26 Apr 2023**



**AZCOC Meeting
4 Nov 2022**



**AZCOC Meeting
12 May 2023**



**Catalina Mountains
Charter Ceremony
5 Nov 2022**



**MOAA Western
Region Chapter
Leaders Workshop
17-18 Nov 2023**



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Advocacy in Action
17 Apr 2024



AZCOC Meeting
2 May 2025



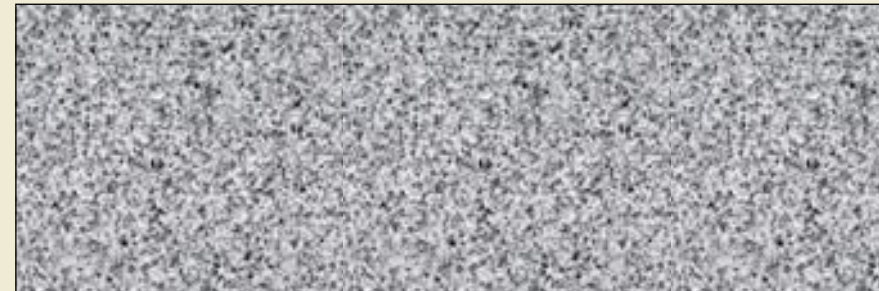
AZCOC Meeting
5 May 2024



AZCOC Meeting
7 Nov 2025



AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2024



Helpful Links Page 1 of 2

- [AZCOC Chapter Position Responsibilities Guide](#)
- [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)
- [MOAA National Homepage](#)
- [MOAA Publications](#)
- [MOAA Councils and Chapters](#)
- [MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide](#)
- [Arizona Department of Veterans Services \(AZDVS\)](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Flagstaff](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Phoenix](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Tucson](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home – Yuma](#)



Helpful Links Page 2 of 2

- [VA Northern Arizona health care \(Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Phoenix health care \(Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Southern Arizona health care \(Tucson VA Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Benefits Administration Links](#)
- [Unified Arizona Veterans \(UAV\)](#)
- [Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society \(AVHOFS\)](#)
- [AVHOFS Copper Sword / Copper Eagle Nomination Criteria and Forms](#)
- [Arizona Be Connected](#)
- [Arizona Military Family Relief Fund](#)
- [How to obtain a copy of DD-214 on the Internet](#)
- [Veterans Asbestos and Mesothelioma](#)



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