



ALBUMOAA'S MAIL CALL

*The Newsletter of The Military Officers Association of America
Albuquerque, New Mexico Chapter*



July—August 2021, Volume XLI, No. 4

President's Message

Albuquerque MOAA Vision:

"Recognized as the leading Military Service Organization in central New Mexico, supporting and giving a voice to military retirees, surviving spouse, and veterans of all services."



Dear Albuquerque MOAA Chapter member:

It is with regret that I announce my resignation from the position of President of the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA.

My wife, Marilyn, and I have sold our home in Albuquerque and purchased a home in Wolfforth, Texas. It has been a great honor and a pleasure to serve as AlbuMOAA's President for the past two and one-half years.

I wish all of you the best of health and continued happiness.

Respectfully,

Michael Cochrane
Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Albuquerque Chapter MOAA

Message from our President, Michael Wisner



With Michael Cochrane's resignation as President of the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA, per our current By-laws, as First Vice President, I will step in as President until our annual meeting in the fall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Cochrane for his solid leadership during his tenure as President, especially given the challenges the COVID-19 presented. I hope you will join me in wishing Mike and Marilyn all the best in their transition to Texas.

As my first order of business, I am cancelling the July 2, 2021 Board Meeting to allow our Board to spend some time with their families and simply enjoy a better 4th of July weekend than we experienced last year.

We will resume our Monthly Board Meetings in August as we prepare for the annual meeting of all our members this fall. We hope to be able to have that meeting at a live venue so stay tuned for details.

I do have a plateful of other commitments so I would ask that each of you consider filling the position of President of the Albuquerque Chapter. As a Chapter, I believe the time has come to rise up out of the ashes of the pandemic associated with COVID-19 and rejuvenate our committees and activities in the coming year.

If you interested in leading this revival, send me a note at my new email address: mewismer@gmail.com.

Thank you for your service to our country and our organization. Celebrate the 4th of July with renewed vigor!

Maj Michael Wisner, USAF (Ret)



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



Committees

President

Maj Michael E Wismer, USAF (Ret)
mewismer@gmail.com

1st VP-Programs

LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret)
2ndvice@albumoaa.org

Secretary

VACANT

Treasurer

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)
treasurer@alburnoaa.org

President Ex-Officio

LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret)
pastpresident@alburnoaa.org

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Marine Corps Rep

Col Charles E Wood, USMCR (Ret)

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LTC Warner W Talso, USA (Ret)

Air Force Rep

Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

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VACANT

US Public Health Service Rep

CAPT Nina F Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret)

Surviving Spouses Rep & Liaison

Katie Fellure

Ski Club Rep

Brig Gen Regner C Rider, USAF (Ret)

Breakfast Club

Lt Col Marsha L Thole, USAFR (Ret)

Golf Club Rep

VACANT

Tours Club Reps

Karen Brown

Judy Keppler

Chaplain

VACANT

Historian

VACANT



In 2012, our Chapter established the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA Endowment at the Albuquerque Community Foundation (ACF) to enhance our current, and especially our future, ability to contribute to worthy charitable organizations that help military personnel, veterans and dependents. The endowment was initiated in late January of 2012 and has grown as a result of contributions and the growth in the investments. The Board has adopted a policy of using the annual Endowment distribution to increase our giving each year. For those who are so inclined, gifts can be made to the Chapter Endowment as a part of a member's estate or as part of a yearly donation. More information about the annual performance and use of the distribution will be published in a future ALBUMOAA. For questions, the Chapter point of contact is the Treasurer, Clint Whisonant.

ROTC/Awards

LTC Erik Sevigny, USA (Ret)

Finance

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs

Col Marvin Schott, USAF (Ret)

Membership Records

Karen Brown
1LT Jacklyn L. Jablonski, USA/NG (Act)

Nominating

VACANT

Consumer Advisory Board

VACANT

Veterans' Memorial Rep

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)

Membership Recruitment

VACANT

Personal Affairs

VACANT

United Veterans Council

Vacant

Web Site

Karen Brown

Newsletter, ALBUMOAA

CAPT Nina F Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret)

MOAA and its affiliated Albuquerque Chapter are independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations.



The **Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA is not associated with the Department of Defense.** This Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Views expressed in articles or editorials in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Chapter nor do they reflect its policies. Publication of advertisements or mention of any commercial businesses does not constitute Chapter endorsement.

Please email suggestions for newsletter format and content to CAPT Nina Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret) at president@alburnoaa.org



Reported by Karen Brown

The Albuquerque Chapter has been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Our Chapter's "Charitable Giving" program has grown as the Ski Club, Tours, special projects and individual donors contribute sizable amounts. Many members donate in conjunction with their dues payment. Donors may contribute to the overall Charitable Giving program, or they may specify their donation to one of the causes listed below:

Charitable Giving (Unspecified)
Blue Star Mothers (Rio Grande & Valencia Chapters)
Gold Star Mothers, Albuquerque Chapter
Albuquerque Fisher House
KAFB Quarterly Awards
NM VA Medical Center
NM Veterans Memorial
ROTC/JROTC Awards
Veterans Integration Center (VIC)
Chapter's Endowment Fund (ACF) and more

Since the last edition, the "**Charitable Giving**" Program received another \$581.00 in donations in conjunction with their dues payments from the following 10 members:

Linda S Baty	Clarice Jenkins
Rita Cantergiani	Roger P. Knight
Linda Davis	Richard S. Mac Isaac
Norman D. Falk	Tony J. Strati
Hart J Guenther	Chuck E. Wood

A big **THANK YOU** for all your generous contributions!

Please send donations to Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA, PO Box 5071, Albuquerque, 87185-5071.

*Thank
You!*



MOAA TOURS



Reported by Karen Brown

Our Scotland tour and events have all been re-scheduled to 2022 - new details below. We are all more than ready to go in 2022!!! Hope you all are staying well and had your COVID vaccinations!

***Rescheduled to May 11, 2022** (Wednesday): 7:30 p.m., Popejoy Hall – **COME FROM AWAY** (Musical): "...the **remarkable true story** of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them." "It takes you to a place you never want to leave!" Group cost for **2nd PRICE** seats is **\$67/person** (middle Orchestra seats in Row N: **PREMIUM** seats cost **\$84/person** (middle Orchestra, rows D, F, G) – non-members please add \$2/person guest fee, unless family or house-guest. Payment is due **ASAP** or **NLT April 1, 2022**. To date, there are 11 participants.



* Mail above payment (made out to **MOAA Ski Club**) to Karen Brown at 962 Antelope NE, 87122. **Note: Tours finances have been moved to MOAA Ski Club.**



MOAA MEMBERS CAN ALSO BUY THEIR OWN MOAA GROUP-PRICED POPEJOY TICKETS ONLINE FOR CERTAIN PERFORMANCES & DATES (Broadway & Ovation Series): Here is the group link for our Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA, that you can click on to order your own seats for these specified Broadway performances or other Ovations performances at the group price. Click on <http://unmtickets.com/MOAA>. You can then pay for your tickets by credit card & they will be mailed to you.

MOAA 2021 TRIP PLANNED BY SUN TOURS FOR MOAA: All payments go to **SUN TOURS**, 1700 Louisiana Blvd, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87110. For reservations and information, call or email Jenn Martinez at 889-8888 or email her at jmartinez@suntoursus.com. *Cancellation insurance recommended.*



Rescheduled to August 17-28, 2022 (11 days) – **Scotland with Military Tattoo by Globus—** Early bird cost is **\$5125/person** (double occupancy) and **\$5925** (single). **Deposit of \$250/person holds your space**, refundable until February 17, 2022. Here is new link to this adventure: [2022 MOAA Scotland with Military Tatoo](#) To date, we have ~15 MOAA members/relatives/friends. This is a shared coach tour with Globus, space is on an "as available" basis. If interested, contact Jenn Martinez at (505) 582-2355 or jmartinez@suntoursus.com and she can quickly confirm availability or put you on the waiting list. COVID-safe practices will be used. BE sure to have both vaccinations a month prior to departure! This trip is quite active!



MOAA Tours/Events Website Link: <https://albumoaa.org/tours-events/>



Since March 2020 the Breakfast Club has not met in person or virtually (kind of hard to do with food!) during the pandemic. There will be no meetings for the rest of 2021, either. We will resume meeting in January 2022, assuming covid restrictions have been lifted and we can meet safely. The January program will be the update on what is happening in the Roundhouse for the next 30-day session, and presented by the Chapter Legislative Liaison, Marvin Schott.

While we normally meet the last Tuesday of the month, the January date will be the middle of the month, to allow time to hear what residents can do to contact their elected state officials in a timely manner. After that, we move to an every-other-month schedule. As in the past, there will be no meetings in November or December.

The location will be the same, Weck's Restaurant on Louisiana, just south of Montgomery Blvd NE, starting at 0700. Of course, all these plans could change in the interim, with any changes reported in the newsletter.

Only a couple of previously scheduled speakers will be returning, so if you have any leads for speakers, please pass all the info (name, email, phone number, topic) on to me via email (marshaaauthor@yahoo.com). Criteria are: The person should have an interesting topic (but nothing political), be a good orator, be able to project loud enough in the back room at Weck's without a microphone. You need to have heard the person speak. In the past, I received some referrals for speakers but the person making the referral had not heard them speak. The result was not positive.

So, please, if you are referring anyone, make sure you have physically heard the person speak, whether in person or virtually. We do not pay the speakers, although their breakfast cost is covered. Speakers who have books may bring them to sell, too.

We have many talented members in our chapter, so do not discount yourself as a speaker at the breakfast club! We do not have the equipment for anyone who uses a PowerPoint (PP) presentation; they need to bring their own equipment, and the restaurant will provide a screen. A PP presentation is not mandatory.



Greetings!

My name is Katie Fellure and I am your new Chapter and NM Council surviving spouse liaison. My purpose in this position is to educate, inform and advocate for our members on surviving spouse issues.

I am an Army veteran and my late husband, Michael, died in 2019 on active duty in the Army. I have two teenagers, a dog, a cat and chickens. We recently moved back home to Albuquerque to be near family after 20+ years on active duty as a service member and spouse.

I will be calling each of you soon to check-in with you personally. If you need assistance on surviving spouse issues, please email me at: ktfellure@yahoo.com

I look forward to advocating for you!

Katie

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March 15, 2021: The Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating April 5, 2021 as "Gold Star Wives Day." Senate Resolution 110.



It reads in part:

"Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability..."

April 5, 2021 marked the 76th anniversary of the first meeting of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., which was organized by Eleanor Roosevelt to assist families of fallen service members. Gold Star Wives is in the process of legally changing its name to Gold Star Spouses, to recognize the men in the organization. Gold Star Wives was created by a Congressional Charter and continues to advocate for surviving spouses along with MOAA. www.goldstarwives.org

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Need your annuitant statement? Go to MyPay at www.dfas.mil



You can also find tax statements for retirees and annuitants

SBP (Survivor Benefit Plan) is paid through DFAS. DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) Is paid out by the VA, and this information will not be on DFAS.

Meetings & Events



Albuquerque Chapter MOAA will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, 17 October 2021 from 1 to 4 PM (1300 – 1600 hours) at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, Visitors Center Meeting Room.

We anticipate an updated NM Department of Health (NMDOH) COVID-19 Order and guidance regarding holding an indoor, enclosed room “mass gathering” and dining service event after July 1, 2021.

Currently holding such an indoor gathering is subject to the restrictions placed on restaurant in-door dining for food service and the provisions for private gatherings and organized events: 33% of maximum capacity of any indoor/enclosed space on premises (this currently permits only 47 people to attend); tables six (6) feet apart and no more than six (6) persons at one table; face mask wearing; and social distancing.

At the “Green Level” the indoor facility gathering may operate at 50% capacity, while still following the tables six (6) feet apart and no more than six (6) persons at one table precautions. Physical social distancing, the number of tables that fit into the enclosed space, and the percentage of room capacity are the current restrictions that limit the number of members, spouses, family members and guests that can attend our event.

Be prepared to RSVP if you would like to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. More will follow in July 2021 as the COVID-19 spread, vaccinations, and NMDOH updated orders with restrictions are published.

The Chapter Board of Directors has authorized funding to support a catered lunch for this Annual Membership Meeting and election of officer vacancies. A cadre of volunteers will be required to make the Annual Membership Meeting happen under the NMDOH COVID-19 restrictions and precautions.

In addition to set up and clean up of the meeting room, due to COVID-19 practices we will not have a buffet meal. Rather we will need food service volunteers to plate food selections and beverages by the glass (wine) for individuals.

We have to avoid individual touching of the serving spoons and spatulas, side dish salads and sauces, and wine bottles. Our next update will list the volunteers and kitchen police needed for the annual meeting.

Please be generous with your time and help make this event comfortable and an opportunity for members to get out and socialize safely.



Ski Club Update

Reported by Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

PRESIDENT: Reg Rider, regrider49@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT: Ron Salley, jrsalley@me.com

TREASURER: Bill Dettmer, billdettmer@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP: Karl Ricker, ksricke@centurylink.net

The Club has begun planning for the 2021-2022 ski season.

The schedule below has been published on the website. Signup meetings beginning in August remains on hold. We are having success in signing people up for the trips. I am optimistic at this time that we will have a good season.

2022 MOAA Ski Club Schedule:

PURGATORY – January 7-9, 2022 (Friday pm – Sunday pm)

Coach transportation, lodging at the Best Western Rio Grande, Durango, CO

Trip Chair: Ron Salley, 798-9904; jrsalley@me.com

TELLURIDE – January 22-26, 2022 (Saturday am – Wednesday pm) Coach transportation, lodging at Victorian Inn, Telluride, CO

Trip Chair: Reg Rider, 944-5514; regrider49@gmail.com

BRECKENRIDGE/KEYSTONE – February 6-10, 2022 (Sunday am – Thursday am) Coach transportation, lodging at The DoubleTree by Hilton, Breckenridge, CO

Trip Chair: Karen Brown, 856-1927; kmbrown8@comcast.net

CRESTED BUTTE – February 21-25, 2022 (Monday am – Friday am) Coach transportation, lodging at Old Town Inn, Crested Butte, CO

Trip Chair: Beth Clark, 228-2640; Beth.Clark3@va.gov



Reported by Col Marvin Schott, USAF (Ret)

The month of May and early June was busy scheduling appointments for virtual meetings with the New Mexico Congressional delegation in support of MOAA's "Advocacy in Action". Mega kudos to Katie Fellure for her persistence through telecom and email to get meetings with the New Mexico Congressional delegation scheduled

The purpose of the annual MOAA campaign is to present to Congress key concerns and issues that affects the military community. In those presentations we strive to gain support for legislation pertinent to those key concerns.

When MOAA studies the issues to advocate each year, MOAA looks at the military community. The military community is composed of active duty members, the National Guard, Reservists, veterans, retirees and surviving spouses.

The prioritized advocacy topics for the 2021 "Advocacy in Action" are:

1. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform

- a. Our country is still grappling to recognize and treat the long-term effects of Agent Orange on our Vietnam veterans, while service-connected illnesses from the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan become ever more apparent.

2. Parity for TRICARE Young Adults

- a. Military kids are not transitioning to adulthood with the same health care protections as civilian families who have commercial plans — a situation worsened in the state of a pandemic.

3. Basic Needs Allowance

- a. This would establish a subsistence allowance for service members and their families living near the poverty line. This is even more important in the pandemic environment when many military spouses are out of work.

Meetings with the members of the New Mexico Congressional delegation were held during the week of 30 May.

The team of Marvin Schott, Walter Paul and Katie Fellure met with staffers for Senator Heinrich, Senator Luhan, and Representative Leger Fernandez. Representative Herrell attended with her staff.

Issue papers are available at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/join-moaas-advocacy-in-action-event.-help-us-make-a-difference/>

The latest update (June 15, 2021) for "Advocacy in Action" is at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/advocacy-in-action-update-how-your-efforts-are-making-a-difference/>

It is important to express the concerns of all MOAA members to the New Mexico Congressional delegation. Here are the links to send a MOAA-suggested message. All you have to do is fill in your contact information. These messages can be sent at any time. The staffs of the senators and representatives record these emails.

Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform:

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/take-action?engagementId=511223>

Parity for TRICARE Young Adults


<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/take-action?engagementId=511394>

Basic Needs Allowance

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/take-action?engagementId=511409>

**To learn about national MOAA advocacy efforts, go to
MOAA Legislative Take Action at: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>**

PENN. MILITARY COLLEGE **Taps** U.S. ARMY BUGLE CALL



Day is done, gone the sun, From the lake, from the hill, from the sky, All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of those who have passed to their eternal rest. May all those who grieve be comforted.



Col Marvin G Spallina, USAF (Ret) – May 6, 2021 (husband of Frances Spallina)



Reported by Karen Brown

Membership Stats (as of June 16, 2021)

Regular: 188
Surviving Spouse: 50
Associate: 42
Total: 280 (-15)

A warm welcome to the following new Regular member:
1stLt Ellen Reedy, USAF (Ret)

THANK YOU to all those who have paid your 2021 Chapter dues, along with generous donations! A few have not paid their dues, so they are considered Inactive and are no longer receiving our communications.

We hope you have checked out our website www.albumoaa.org – see links on top of Home page. You do not have to log in to see **Chapter Information, NM Legislative Info, Photo Gallery, Newsletters, Clubs** (Breakfast, Tours & Ski), etc. Login is only necessary to access the online **Member Directory** (under **Members Only**) and to **Renew Membership**. Please let Karen know if you have problems logging in – kmbrown8@comcast.net or 856-1927.

Sadly, we have lost 27 members and/or spouses who passed away in the past 3 years. Our annual Chapter Memorial has been canceled for the past 2 years because of COVID.

We are now planning to have our MOAA Memorial next May 2022, remembering them all.

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The Albuquerque Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
P. O. Box 5071
Albuquerque, NM 87185

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Albuquerque Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

Eligible for membership: Commissioned or Warrant Officers, or their Surviving Spouses

Army—Marine Corps—Navy—Air Force—Coast Guard—Public Health Service—

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Regular-Reserve-National Guard-Active Duty-Retired-Former Officers

Please Print Clearly or Apply Online at www.albumoaa.org



- ☐ Enroll me as a REGULAR MEMBER at \$24.00 for one year.
☐ Enroll me as a SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBER (as the surviving spouse of a deceased officer) at \$12.00 for one year.
☐ Enroll me as an ASSOCIATE MEMBER (non-military & enlisted) at \$15.00 for one year.
☐ Enroll me for NEW Membership as REGULAR or SURVIVING SPOUSE applicant, receiving first 2 calendar years' membership for cost of one year.

I wish to donate \$_____ to the Chapter's Giving Program, and my check includes this amount. I realize that the donation is Federal and State tax-free.

First Name Middle Initial Last Name Rank Service Spouse's Name _____

Street Apt City State ZIP+4 Telephone Numbers _____

E-Mail Address: _____ National Membership Number: _____

☐ Active Duty, ☐ Retired, ☐ Former Officer, ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ Regular, ☐ Reserve, ☐ National Guard

Would you be willing to assist in the operation of the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA? If so, what would be your main area of interest?

☐ Legislative Affairs, ☐ Public Relations, ☐ Membership, ☐ Scholarship & Award, ☐ Personal Affairs, ☐ Legal Counsel

☐ Newsletter, ☐ Chaplain, ☐ Finance, ☐ Programs & Activities, ☐ Data Processing Other _____

Do you have an interest in any of the following clubs: ☐ Breakfast Club, ☐ Ski Club, ☐ Tours/Events, ☐ Golf

Please make check payable to: **Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA** Mail to: **Membership, Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA**
P.O. Box 5071

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Albuquerque, NM 87185-5071**