



# ALBUQUERQUE'S MAIL CALL

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



September—October 2021, Volume XLI, No. 5

## *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:

I am pleased to announce the Albuquerque MOAA Board has approved an in-person annual meeting, member appreciation and celebration of comradery for **Sunday, October 17, 2021 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial located at 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108.**

The event will be catered by Tully's Italian Deli of Albuquerque. We are all anxious to see our friends and colleagues once again after a difficult year of COVID-19 Pandemic. So, save the date and look for an email with a link to RSVP. We will also be electing officers and discussing the future of the Albuquerque MOAA. We hope to see you all there.

In preparation for the annual meeting, we will be conducting a short survey to help us better understand your expectations for the organization. Expect an email with a link to the Survey Monkey. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey.

I would also like to highlight the efforts of MOAA Member Rod Kontny for his persistent pursuit of the military records of New Mexican, Captain Jerry Gonzales, who was a veteran of World War II and a victim of the Bataan Death March. Rod's research and determination to correct an error to honor a New Mexican hero was rewarded!

On August 20th I attended the prestigious and moving ceremony where Captain Gonzales' family and descendants were presented Captain Gonzales' medals by Major General Kenneth A. Nava, the Adjutant General of the State of New Mexico, for Captain Gonzales' bravery in the Pacific Theater of WWII. Bravo Zulu, Rod! Photos of this event are on page 9.

Finally, please stay safe and I hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Luncheon on October 17.

Respectfully,

**Maj Michael Wismer, USAF (Ret)**  
President  
Albuquerque Chapter MOAA



## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



### President

Maj Michael E Wismer, USAF (Ret)  
[mewismer@gmail.com](mailto:mewismer@gmail.com)

### 1st VP-Programs

LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret)  
[2ndvice@albumoaa.org](mailto:2ndvice@albumoaa.org)

### Secretary

VACANT

### Treasurer

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)  
[treasurer@albumoaa.org](mailto:treasurer@albumoaa.org)

### President Ex-Officio

LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret)  
[pastpresident@albumoaa.org](mailto:pastpresident@albumoaa.org)

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### Marine Corps Rep

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### Army Rep

LTC Warner W Talso, USA (Ret)

### Air Force Rep

Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

### US Coast Guard Rep

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### US Public Health Service Rep

CAPT Nina F Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret)

### Surviving Spouses Rep & Liaison

Katie Fellure

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



### 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.

## Committees

### 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

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### 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)



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@albumoaa.org](mailto:president@albumoaa.org)



**Albuquerque Chapter MOAA 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!!!!**

**Reported by LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret)**

Everyone will need to bring a face mask, a smile, and take this opportunity to come out and interact with fellow vaccinated and health considerate MOAA members during the current “delta phase” of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will be adhering to the indoor dining and indoor “mass gathering” event guidelines from the NM Department of Health and any subsequent Executive orders or updates as a condition of our using the Veterans Memorial Park Conference Room, which is managed by the City of Albuquerque. Currently, indoor events using the this Conference Room are limited to 50% capacity of the facility. As the membership of the Albuquerque MOAA Chapter includes some seasoned members, please think twice and then think again about attending if you have not received the COVID-19 vaccination. Be considerate of others, we do not want to unnecessarily expose our age vulnerable or members with underlying risk factors to an asymptomatic vector at this event, especially where food will be served. We are serving Chicken Cacciatore and Chicken Parmigiana as the main course, and Caprese Platter, Cheese Manicotti, and Broccoli Romano as the side dishes.

As a result of the conference room capacity restrictions, our Meeting will accommodate only 75 members, guests, and honorees. In order to control the number of attendees, it is necessary for vaccinated members wishing to attend to RSVP.

Members may RSVP by email to [2ndvice@albumoaa.org](mailto:2ndvice@albumoaa.org) with the subject line **MOAA Annual Membership Meeting**. I will maintain a waiting list after the number of RSVPs exceeds the 50% capacity limit. Additionally, I will reserve 15 - 24 slots on the RSVP list for volunteers who are needed in order to make our event run smoothly, provide the food and beverage services to members that are required under the indoor dining restrictions, and create an enjoyable social outing with the camaraderie that has been missing for the last 18 months. If you want to go to the head of the RSVP line and guarantee yourself a seat at the Annual Meeting and epicurean dining, volunteer\* to serve other chapter Members first and make the event a success. Below is the list of staff positions needed. I will accept up to 24 volunteers (members, spouses, guests) to staff the dining room and kitchen as priority RSVPs.

The fifteen (15) volunteer positions required in the dining room and kitchen are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 - Hot meal servers (bring your own apron) | 1 - *Root Beer/Ginger Ale chaperone        |
| 2 - Sides servers (bring your own apron)    | 1 - *Sprite/Pepsi chaperone                |
| 2 - *Sommeliers / white wine – red wine     | 2 - Dessert wardens (bring your own apron) |
| 1 – *Bottled water bearers                  | 3 - Kitchen steward                        |
| 1 – *Ice Tea/Beer (one 6 pack) chaperone    |  |

**\* Beverage service volunteers need to bring an ice chest with a bag of ice to chill the service beverage. Water bottles will be served at ambient temperature as well as chilled. Water fountains are turned off as a COVID precaution.**

Under COVID sanitary practices for indoor dining, there is no self-service buffet. Servers are required for indoor dining to avoid multiple people handling or touching serving utensils and food trays. Servers will plate the individual ration selection and portion for each member.

RSVP by email to [2ndvice@albumoaa.org](mailto:2ndvice@albumoaa.org) with the subject line **MOAA Annual Membership Meeting** and indicate if you would like to volunteer to be a server, beverage chaperone, Sommelier, or steward.






# MOAA TOURS



Reported by Karen Brown

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

**\*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 2<sup>nd</sup> PRICE seats is \$67/person (middle Orchestra seats in Row N: PREMIUM seats cost \$84/person (middle Orchestra, rows F, G) – non-members please add \$2/person guest fee, unless family or house-guest.


Payment is due 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.




**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](mailto:jmartinez@suntoursus.com). Cancellation insurance recommended.



**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 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](mailto: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/>

Here is **Sun Tours**’ website: <http://www.suntoursus.com/overseas> - some of us have signed up for **Israel & Jordan**, now departing March 2022, and also looking at **India’s Golden Triangle plus Dubai**, departing October 2022. Both trips are very active!! Check them out!



**Reported by Marsha Thole, Breakfast Club Coordinator**

Our plan is to resume the Breakfast Club in January 2022, barring any health rule changes, same place, same time. Weck's on Louisiana and Montgomery already has many groups who have restarted their activities, but the decision for us was made to not have any meetings in 2021; in hindsight, that was a good decision!

The meeting date for the first month only is January 11, the second Tuesday of the month. The January iteration is always our update from the chapter's Legislative Liaison, Marvin Schott, and is a week in advance of the short session this coming year. We will hear what is going on and what is being proposed. As this program is always well attended, we will be accepting RSVPs only, as the room is small. The limit will be 20 people. An email notice will be sent in December, at which time you can then RSVP. We did this back in 2020 and, sadly, no-shows who never let me know they would not be attending meant people on a waiting list did not get to attend, either. Let's not have that happen next time.

The earlier date gives everyone a chance to contact their legislators. I recently spoke to one of the higher ups in the state government, and he said that it is critical to hear from constituents. The sad thing is that many do not bother to write. When that happens, it is assumed that we, the people, have no concerns. We know that is incorrect, but it will not change unless **YOU** take action to speak up on issues that affect you and/or your fellow veterans. Marvin will enlighten us on what you can do.

In 2022, as announced two years ago, the Breakfast Club goes to an every-other-month format, as finding speakers has become a challenge, and attendance was dropping off, which is embarrassing for us, as the speakers do a lot of work to prepare and come talk to us.

The next gathering after January will be the **LAST** Tuesday of March, the 29th, and so forth. If you are in favor of monthly gatherings, I would welcome anyone to take over the management of the Breakfast Club. So please ***make sure your email address that is listed in the ALBUMOAA Directory online is correct***, in case we need to notify members of any changes that affect the schedule because of health rule changes.



**Reported by Katie Fellure**

Greetings!

Are you a member of the MOAA Virtual Surviving Spouse Chapter yet?

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meets quarterly online via zoom. Topics have included financial information, DIC updates and other items of interest for the Surviving Spouse community. Membership is open to any MOAA spouse or surviving spouse.

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council leads the meetings with assistance from MOAA national members.

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) was created in 2004 to advise the MOAA president about issues that are important to surviving spouses and to help prepare military spouses for future events. The virtual chapter began in 2018 and includes members from across the country. More information and resources for surviving spouses can be found on MOAA.org under "I am a.....Surviving Spouse"

Email [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com) for the membership application to the Surviving Spouse virtual chapter.

Katie Fellure  
Surviving Spouse Liaison  
[militarywidowAN@gmail.com](mailto:militarywidowAN@gmail.com)



Reported by Karen Brown

### CHARITABLE GIVING PROGRAM

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

*Thank  
You!*

Since the last edition, the "Charitable Giving" Program received another \$338.00 in donations in conjunction with their dues payments from the following 11 members:

Marilyn Baker-Brown  
Anna May Conarty "Mazie"  
George P Elder  
Julia Huff  
Sandra K Montgomery  
William H Putnam

Lawrence Sher  
Adele M Thompson  
Robert D Wakefield  
Larry W Wilson  
Charlene York

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

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





# Ski Club Update

*Reported by Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF(Ret)*

**PRESIDENT:** Reg Rider, [regrider49@gmail.com](mailto:regrider49@gmail.com)

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ron Salley, [jrsalley@me.com](mailto:jrsalley@me.com)

**TREASURER:** Bill Dettmer, [billdettmer@comcast.net](mailto:billdettmer@comcast.net)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Karl Ricker, [ksricke@centurylink.net](mailto:ksricke@centurylink.net)

Below are some photos you will enjoy from The Club:



**Ski Club Check-In:** Bill, June, Helena, Bill, Claire & Tony



**Socializing at Ski Club:** Sandy, Kathryn, Connie & Margaret



**Ski Club Meeting/Food:** Claire, Teresa & Conni



**Ski Meeting:** Linda, Sally, Tom & Judy

**Ski Club Trip Sign Ups:** Jack and Bev



# Meetings & Events

*Reported by LTC Michael Houck, USA(R)*

## **Albuquerque Veterans Day Remembrance**

November 11, 2021 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park Foundation is sponsoring the Veterans Day remembrance November 11, 2021 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater. Check the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park website at <http://nmvetsmemorial.org> for event times, details, auxiliary parking, and potential bus service.

## **Albuquerque MOAA Memorial Service**

Saturday, May 14, 2022  
1000 – 1200 Hours

The Albuquerque MOAA Chapter's Memorial Service is Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 1000 to 1200 Hours at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater. Mark your 2022 calendar and plan to attend, honor, and pay tribute to our members who reached the end their earthly paths. We have over 25 members to remember and honor due to previous Memorial Services being cancelled.

## **NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN**

Photos from the August 20, 2021 Captain Jerry Gonzales' posthumous Medal Ceremony



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

## VA Assures Access to Health Care as 9/11 Anniversary Approaches

As the 20th anniversary of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks approaches, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing those who served awareness of and access to all their health care services, specifically in areas of mental health and post-traumatic stress care.

VA Mental Health officials said there has been an uptick in Veterans seeking help, which could increase more as they come to terms with their service and as the Afghanistan withdrawal comes to completion.

“Our nation is indebted to the men and women who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, because they made our world infinitely safer,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Their service did not come without sacrifice as some carry physical and emotional wounds. We must ensure they get the world-class care they’ve earned and deserve.”



*Gd psych services, llc*  
**LET'S TALK**



**CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, Psy.D. MA, USA(Ret)  
President and Owner**

GD Psych Services, LLC is dedicated to providing the greater Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho, NM region with supportive, solution-based psychological services provided by the most professional licensed clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and psychologists in the community. Our organization is fully committed to helping you maintain your mental health and happiness and providing you with the best solutions to overcome your greatest psychological challenges. GD Psych Services is a woman-owned and disabled veteran-owned small business.

2200 Grande Blvd., Suite B, Rio Rancho, NM. 87124 • (505) 218 - 6383 • Website: <https://gdpsychservices.com>

The above is a paid advertisement by GD Psych Services, LLC.



Reported by Karen Brown

**Membership Stats** (as of August 16, 2021)

Regular: 179

Surviving Spouse: 50

Associate: 39

Total: 268 (-12)

A warm welcome to the following new **Associate** members:  
Cynthia Tobyas (Barney McClernon)

THANK YOU to all those who have paid your 2021 Chapter dues, along with generous donations!

We hope you have checked out our website [www.albumoaa.org](http://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](mailto:kmbrown8@comcast.net) or 856-1927.



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](http://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**