



ALBUMOAA'S MAIL CALL

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



November —December 2021, Volume XLI, No. 6

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:

With the President of the Albuquerque Chapter of MOAA resignation and the recent 1st Vice President resignation, per our current By-laws, as Second Vice President, I assumed the Chapter President position until our annual meeting in the fall of 2022, or until the Board of Directors is able to appoint a member to assume the chapter officer position as President. I will continue to hold the chapter officer position of Second Vice President. The position of First Vice President is vacant.

Our Monthly Board Meetings will continue through the end of the year in virtual and in-person formats.

We have not identified a regular location to hold our the Monthly Board Meetings. Please check our ALBUMOAA website for an announcement of our monthly site locations going forward.

I want to express my appreciation to those who attended the 63rd Annual Meeting in the history of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. I also want to give a shout out to the member volunteers who helped set-up, serve the catered meal, and clean the dining-conference room at the end of the event.

Member volunteers and your assistance enable the Chapter to continue to advocate for and assist veteran, active duty, and family support programs in New Mexico and across the United States.

The nation and, particularly, the State of New Mexico continue to battle the COVID-19 virus and variants. Currently many of our hospitals in New Mexico are experiencing a bed capacity crisis. If you are able to safely get the COVID-19 vaccination and booster, please do so.

Thank you for your service to our country and our organization. Celebrate with your local veteran communities in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho this Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021. See page 9 for more information.

Sincerely,

LTC Michael C. Houck, USA (Ret)
President, Albuquerque Chapter MOAA



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



Committees

ROTC/Awards

LTC Erik Sevigny, USA (Ret)

Finance

Lt Col Clint Whisonant, USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs

Col Marvin Schott, USAF (Ret)

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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)

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Personal Affairs

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Web Site

Karen Brown

Newsletter, ALBUMOAA

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LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret)
president@albuquerquemoaa.org

1st VP—Programs

Vacant

2nd VP—Programs

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Secretary

Lt Col Marsha Thole, USAFR (Ret)

Treasurer

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

President Ex-Officio

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

Navy Rep

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Col Charles E Wood, USMCR (Ret)

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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.

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@albuquerquemoaa.org

Meetings & Events

Our October 17, 2021 **Annual Meeting** had a great turn out, especially since this represented our first face-to-face event in almost 18 months! Members, family and award recipients participated and enjoyed the great food from Tully's. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered to make this meeting a fantastic success! At our Annual Meeting we recognized, through our Charitable Giving donations, the programs and activities of those shown in the following photos presented by President Michael Houck:



**Blue Star Mothers
Rio Grande Valley Chapter:
Marlene Gaylor and
Gloria Sampson**



**Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County
Chapter: Bettie Moore and Tom Moore**



**Albuquerque Veterans
Integration Center (VIC):
Fermin Ortega**



**Fisher House, Albuquerque:
Christina Ramirez**

Below are some photos showing our members, family and award recipients enjoying themselves at our Annual Meeting:





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.” Group cost for **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 March 1, 2022.** To date, 15 participants; only five (5) seats remaining.

* 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 Sun Tours at (505) 889-8888. *Cancellation insurance is 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 ~20 MOAA members/relatives/friends. This is a shared coach tour with Globus, space is on an “as available” basis. If interested, contact Sun Tours at (505) 889-9999 to confirm availability or put you on the waiting list. COVID-19 safe practices will be used. **Globus** now requires vaccinations! 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 Lt Col Marsha Thole, USAFR (Ret) Breakfast Club Coordinator

The Breakfast Club is back in business!!

Same day, same time, same place. There are a couple of changes you need to be aware of. First, attendance is limited to 18 people at this time. The schedule for speakers will be every other month, none in November and December. Our first program of 2022 is on Tuesday, January 11th, a week before the opening of the 30-day legislative session at the Roundhouse. **January is the only month it will be the second Tuesday of the month.** All other programs are on the **LAST Tuesday** of the month. The next date after January will be March 29, 2022.

As customary, January is when we get to hear a detailed update from the chapter's Legislative Liaison, Marvin Schott, on what is happening (or not!) this coming year. The date is early so you have time to contact your elected officials in the state house and senate. As mentioned at our annual meeting, the legislators must hear from us if we are to expect any action on military issues. Staffers will tell you that personal letters make a difference. Continuous communications to these elected officials will make an impression. Marvin will cover any legislation being proposed which affects the military in NM. So, you will want to be prepared to take notes during Marvin's presentation.

The doors at Weck's (on Louisiana south of Montgomery) open at 0700, and we finish by 0900. Please order from the menu, pay separately, and include a tip. As restaurants are experiencing a staff shortage (which will probably be the case in January), please arrive by 0710, so you can order and receive your meal before the speaker begins. Having servers coming in and out of the meeting room can be disruptive.

FOR JANUARY 2022: Because of space limitations, please RSVP to me via email (marshaauthor@yahoo.com) NLT Friday, January 7. Please provide your name, number of people, and phone number. Feel free to bring a guest. If you are unable to attend, please call me at (505-856-2080) so that those on the waiting list can attend in your place. Failing to notify me of change in plans will prevent those on our waiting list to attend. Please be considerate of others who would like to participate!

COVID PRACTICES: At the present time, we are required to wear a mask when entering the restaurant, using the restroom, paying at the checkout counter, and leaving the restaurant. If health mandates change that affect the Breakfast Club, we will publish updated information on our website. Please stay alert to the public health announcements in the meantime.

See you in January! As usual, come HUNGRY!



MOAA 2021 Advocacy in Action Campaign

In June, the Legislative Affairs Committee augmented by Walter Paul and Katie Fellure participated in MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign. The campaign did get the attention of Congress. Nationally, all congressional offices were contacted, 20,000 messages were sent to Congress and 350 meetings were conducted with either the legislator or members of their staff. As you read through what Congress has not done with respect to these three of only many issues negatively affecting military members, veterans, retirees and surviving spouses, it is important that every member contact the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation and express your concern.

Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform

The Advocacy in Action campaign has been successful in communicating the effects of exposure to toxic substances on military members and veterans from Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan. What started as four bills became the catalyst for overarching (omnibus) legislation offered by the House and Senate – together, this topic has amassed 200 co-sponsors, including key legislators from both chambers.

STATUS: Congress is still coming to grips with funding the government and finding common ground on infrastructure improvements proposed by the administration. Legislation being sought here is not tied to the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), so it could have success as a standalone bill or be wrapped up with other supplemental legislation or appropriations. All our efforts to date will be relevant as we head into the second session of this Congress in January.

TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Parity

The Legislative Affairs Committee meetings with the New Mexico congressional delegation indicated a lack of knowledge of this grossly unfair conundrum. Our legislators must understand that kids from military families transitioning to adulthood lack the same health care protections as civilian families who have commercial plans. These concerns were made worse during the pandemic — and also complicated by the prospects of [serious TRICARE Young Adult premium increases](#) next year.

Even with nearly 100 co-sponsors from the House and Senate, there was not enough support to compel inclusion in the House version of the NDAA, nor through the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC).

STATUS: Thankfully, we have a second session of Congress coming up, so the bills and support carry forward in 2022. Also of note, [Rep. Elaine Luria \(D-Va.\) introduced her bill](#) as an amendment to the House version of the NDAA, knowing it would be called out of order due to budget impacts. She has committed to continue this effort, as has Rep. Michael Waltz (R-Fla.), her original co-sponsor, who said he will work with the House Armed Services Committee to find the funds. This is another example of inequitable healthcare treatment between military members dependents and non-military dependents.

Basic Needs Allowance

Support for improving the lives of our junior servicemembers and their families seemed to resonate with many in Congress. While the number of co-sponsors was nearly the same as the TRICARE Young Adult effort, the [stories and pictures](#) of servicemembers in line at food banks likely fueled congressional efforts to ensure supporting language was included in both House and Senate versions of the NDAA.

STATUS: MOAA is confident there will be some level of support in the FY 2022 NDAA. There is a significant difference between the Senate and House provisions. The House excludes Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in the computation for the 130% of the poverty line, which is on par with other federal assistance, and as MOAA supports. The Senate's provision; however, maintains BAH as a component in the poverty line computation, thus significantly reducing eligibility.

New Mexico Military Retiree Pay PIT Exemption

Senator Burt is again sponsoring a \$50,000 military retiree pay PIT exemption. It is anticipated that the Interim Military and Veterans Affairs Committee will endorse the bill in their meeting on October 22. Senator Burt plans to meet with the governor to get her position.

Military Retiree Cost of Living Adjustments for 2022

The 2022 COLA for military retirees will be 5.9%. The increase takes effect on Dec. 1 and first appears in January checks.

Tricare Copays

Tricare pharmacy co-payments will be increasing for some beneficiaries, described as “part of a larger effort to help fund improvements in military readiness and modernize the Tricare Health Benefit.” There will be a \$1 to \$8 increase depending on whether the prescription covers generic, brand-name or non-formulary drugs.



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 \$694.00 in donations in conjunction with their dues payments from the following 15 members:

Noel F Austin
Edwin Brawley
Rita Cantergiani
Rosalie Conley
Michael W. Cutter
Larry Ernst
Frederick L. Green
Anne L. Hickman

Michael C. Houck
David L. Jackson
Kenneth M. Nicholson
Joseph M. Opuszenski
Patricia Scott
Anita Westphal
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

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

TREASURER: Bill Dettmer, billdettmer@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP: Karl Ricker, ksricke@centurylink.net

Below are photos you will enjoy from the October 17, 2021 Ski Club meeting which followed the conclusion of the Annual Meeting:



Larry, Mary Jane, Kip and Bill



Teresa, Claire, Marguerite, Burt, Bronwyn, Larry, and George



Beth and Sherri

Meetings & Events

*2nd Vice President Report
LTC Michael Houck, USA(R)*

November 5, 2021

We want to extend an invitation to our members to attend the November 5th Board Meeting. The MOAA National Council & Chapter Affairs office is sending a representative for an official visit to the Albuquerque MOAA Chapter. If you have a particular item of interest that has not appeared in the MOAA Magazine or is not included in the current MOAA advocacy issues, this may be an opportunity to raise that issue to the MOAA National staff. The visiting Chapter Affairs representative may impart some organizational pearls of wisdom gained from their national travels that will benefit our chapter, activities and interests of the membership. The Board of Directors meeting is November 5, 2021 at the NM Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Conference Room at 12:00PM.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2021



Celebrate with the local veteran communities in **Albuquerque** at the NM Veterans Memorial Park from 10:00AM to 12:00PM to honor all veterans, presentations to the families of NM Fallen Warriors, and presentation of the NMBC Veteran of the Year Award.

Rio Rancho Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony, November 11, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Join as the community celebrates our Veterans and remembers their selfless service. Everyone is welcome to participate in the parade, you don't have to be a Veteran or Veteran-related organization to march in the parade. The parade will step off at 10 a.m. and head east from Country Club Drive and down Southern Boulevard and end on Pinetree Road near the Esther Bone Memorial Library and the Rio Rancho Veterans Monument Park. Immediately following the parade, a ceremony honoring all Veterans will be held at Veterans Memorial Park. Ceremony will start at approximately 11:00 am.

National Wreaths Across America Day December 18, 2021 at the Santa Fe National Cemetery (NMSNCS) Please join us on **December 18th, 2021, at 10:00 AM** (virtual or in person to be determined) to honor and remember our local heroes at our ceremony for National Wreaths Across America Day! All sponsored wreaths will be placed by volunteers.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Please sponsor a wreath (or 2 or 3) to help us increase the number of wreaths that we can place at the cemetery on December 18 and help NMSNCS lay wreaths at the graves. More information to follow on, either, the in-person or virtual program at the cemetery. Regardless, there will be an opportunity for individuals or groups to participate in laying of wreaths at the grave sites.

Please consider attending and supporting the Santa Fe National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America event!

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.



David N Harstad – September 5, 2021 (husband of Sandy Harstad)

Maj Donald F Wagstaff – August 13, 2021 (husband of Berta Wagstaff)

Frank J Loschke – October 19, 2021 (husband of Teresa Loschke)



As the holidays will soon be here, please consider donating clothing, food items, gently used furniture and household items to the Veterans Integration Center (VIC) on 13032 Central Ave., SE, Albuquerque. Per the VIC, New Mexico is one of only four states in the Nation experiencing an increase in the number of homeless Veterans. Today, there are more than 158K veterans living in our State. Nine percent live in poverty and nearly 17% are homeless. **WE** can change a Veteran family's life and show that New Mexico cares! The VIC is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization and all donations to the VIC are tax deductible.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from your editor!



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2111 Wyoming Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Thinking of selling?

Call me for a free market analysis of your home!

If you are interested let's talk!

katiefellure@phocusrealestate.com



Reported by Karen Brown

Membership Stats (as of October 18, 2021)

Regular: 185
Surviving Spouse: 52
Associate: 41
Total: 278 (+10)

A warm welcome to the following new members and spouses:

Regular

CDR George “Joe” Bell, USN Ret (Carmen)
LTC Lynn D Burns, USA Ret
LTC Max D Johnson, USA Ret
CWO4 Edward W Williams, USCG Ret (Karen)

Surviving Spouse

Sharon K Stanton
Berta Wagstaff

Associate

Kristine E Barrett
Michael A Roesler

We have begun to collect Chapter dues for 2022. If you wish to pay by check, please use the application on the last page of this newsletter to send in your dues. Or you may also use the online **Renew Membership** application <https://albumoaa.org/renew-membership/> and pay by PayPal - you must log in to do this. **THANK YOU** to all those who have already paid dues, along with donations!

We hope you check 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. Log in 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 (505) 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



- ☐ 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**