



President's Message



September - October 2023, Volume XLIII, No. 5

ALBUMOAA'S

#### **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 (ALBUMOAA) Chapter members:

ALBUMOAA has a few exciting things coming up including our Annual Meeting on October 15, 2023 and our Annual 100th Birthday party on September 15, 2023.

The Chapter will also have a table at the NM State Fair on Military Day, September 12, 2023, in an effort to recruit new membership and share with everyone the mission and services of our Chapter.

We hope to see you at these events!

The Chapter's current charitable focus is centered on the Veterans Integration Center (VIC) as the VIC is in the midst of expansion and providing various resources to Veterans in need.

A donation of at least \$1k will be made to the VIC at the Annual Meeting of Members on October 15, 2023; however, the Chapter plans to match membership donations to the VIC for up to another \$1,000! Minimal contributions have been made to date, so please consider a donation to the cause, any amount is appreciated!

ALBUMOAA is still in need of a Secretary and Surviving Spouse Representative.

These positions require a minimal amount of your time but the time spent would benefit so many and these positions play an important role.

Please consider serving your Branch and community by filling one of these positions.

Lastly, the BOD is seeking volunteers to help on September 12, 2023. Please consider joining us and spreading the word about why someone should become a member of ALBUMOAA.

CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, MA, PsyD, USA (Ret) President, ALBUMOAA Chapter 2200 Grande Blvd. SE, Ste B Rio Rancho, NM 87124







President CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, PsyD., USA (Ret) president@albumoaa.org

**1st VP-Programs, Communications** Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)

2nd VP—Programs LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret) 2ndvice@albumoaa.org

> Secretary VACANT

Treasurer Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret) treasurer@albumoaa.org

President Ex-Officio LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret ) pastpresident@albumoaa.org

Navy Rep LCDR Meredith Beaton, USN (Ret)

Marine Corps Rep Col Charles E Wood, USMCR (Ret)

Army Rep CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, USA (Ret)

Air Force Rep Brig Gen Reg Rider, USAF (Ret)

US Coast Guard Rep CWO3 Edward Williams, USCG (Ret)

**NM National Guard Rep** LTC Max Johnson, NMNGUS (Ret)

US Public Health Service Rep CAPT Nina F Dozoretz, USPHS (Ret)

Surviving Spouses Rep & Liaison VACANT



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



Ski Club Rep Brig Gen Regner C Rider, USAF (Ret)

Lunch Club CPT Tom Dawe, USA (FMR)

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, Allen Tate.



ROTC/Awards LTC Erik Sevigny, USA (Ret)

**Finance** Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret)

Legislative Affairs LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret) INTERIM (VACANT)

Membership Records Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret) Karen Brown

**Nominating** LTC Walter Paul, USA (Ret)

Consumer Advisory Board VACANT

Veterans' Memorial Rep VACANT

Membership Recruitment LTC Erik Sevigny, USA (Ret)

Personal Affairs VACANT

**United Veterans Council of Greater Albuquerque (UVCGA)** LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret) Chapter Member

Web Site Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret) 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

To learn about national MOAA advocacy efforts, go to MOAA Legislative Take Action at: <u>MOAA | Legislative Action Center (quorum.us)</u>



Reported by CPT Tom Dawe, USA (FMR)

You do not want to miss our Lunch Club the last Tuesday of the month. We continue to present interesting and informative speakers. Below is the link to our website identifying our outstanding September Lunch Club speaker, Ms. Dede Feldman, former NM legislator:

https://albumoaa.org/lunch-club/

We look forward to seeing you September 26 and October 31st for lunch at Weck's on Louisiana Blvd. NE.

Lunch Club will not be held in November and December 2023. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year, 2024!

Place: Weck's at 3913 Louisiana Blvd NE - Just south of Montgomery

**Cost:** Separate checks, please add a tip; 10% Senior discount; pay at the conclusion of the program

When: Last Tuesday of each month

**Time:** 12 - 2PM. Please arrive by 12PM to order your meal before the speaker has begun.

Reservations not required

**Contact:** Tom Dawe with any questions

If you have a recommendation for a speaker, please contact Tom at <a href="mailto:rtdawe@comcast.net">rtdawe@comcast.net</a>.



Reported by Karen Brown

We had a wonderful time on our Grandeur of the Great Lakes Cruise in the American Queen Ocean Voyager. We traveled from Chicago to Toronto, with stops at Escanaba, Mackinac Island, Cleveland, Detroit and Niagara Falls, exploring the majestic waterways of the Great Lakes. It was quite an education!!

Photos on page 5 show some of the interesting sights captured on our cruise. There are more pictures located in the Photo Gallery on our website: <a href="https://albumoaa.org/photo-gallery/">https://albumoaa.org/photo-gallery/</a>.

The 2023-2024 Popejoy Hall season offers the following:



*Disney's The Lion King*: October 18 - November 5, 2023 *Hadestown*: December 6-10, 2023 *Pretty Woman*: The Musical – January 25-28, 2024 *My Fair Lady*: March 21-24, 2024 *Beetlejuice*: May 9-12, 2024



There are now group discounted tickets available online at <u>https://www.unmtickets.com/MOAA</u> for *DISNEY'S THE LION KING* at Popejoy Hall for both Sunday, **October 29** and Monday, **October 30**, both of which are **6:30 pm** performances.

There is good availability now, but you must order quickly before they go on sale to the public. You can purchase your tickets using a credit card. The tickets default to electronic mobile tickets for your cell phone, but you can call

the ticket office at 505-277-4569 to request paper tickets after you purchase your tickets online. **NOTE: You will need to create an account to purchase these tickets.** 

There are also many other Ovation performances listed that you can also order now with the group discounts. This is the only way to get the group discounted tickets this year, but please email Karen at <u>kmbrown8@comcast.net</u>, if you need help or if you have questions. There should be other Broadway shows listed in the future.

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



**Mackinac Island Grand Hotel** 

Woodland Sky Dancer



Niagara Falls Boat Ride

Reported by Karen Brown



<u>Membership Stats</u> (as of August 18, 2023) Regular: 175 Surviving Spouse: 47 Associate: 42 Total: 264 (-4)

Thank you to all who have paid Chapter dues for 2023! Some, however, have not paid!

## PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR NAME IN THE ADDRESS HAS \*\* AFTER IT, THIS INDICATES YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2023 ABQ CHAPTER MOAA DUES.

To pay, please complete the form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it along with your 2023 dues payment to the address noted on the bottom of the form.

<b>Regular (Uniformed Officers—active, retired, former)</b>	\$24.00
Surviving Spouses (Widows of Uniformed Officers)	\$12.00
Associate (Enlisted/Non-Uniformed)	\$15.00

We hope you check out our website at <u>https://albumoaa.org/</u> – see links on top of the Home page. You do not have to log in to see **Chapter Information**, **NM Legislative Info**, **Photo Gallery**, **Newsletters**, **Clubs** (Lunch, Ski, Tours), etc.

# CHARITABLE GIVING

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) Albuquerque Fisher House KAFB Quarterly Awards NM VA Medical Center NM Veterans Memorial ROTC/JROTC Awards Veterans Integration Center (VIC) Honor Flight Northern NM Paws and Stripes, Inc. Chapter's Endowment Fund (ACF) and more



In the last couple months, the **"Charitable Giving"** Program received another **\$1133.00** in donations in conjunction with their dues payments from the following 18 members:

Michael A Blackledge Larry E Bost Richard W Chambliss Beth Clark Robert F Couch Linda Davis Jesse W Gill Hart J Guenther Gwen R Holmes Michael C Houck Julia Huff Clarice Jenkins Nancy Kluck Adele M Thompson Ronald E Thompson Claude Valles Karen Wall Charlene York



Our Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA, is **matching membership donations up to \$1,000** this year towards the donation to the Veteran Integration Center (VIC). Their mission is "to enable Veterans and their families to achieve stable housing, financial security, and a renewed sense of community." For more information, click on <u>https://www.nmvic.org/</u>.

They have just broken ground on Phase 1 Building and Outdoor Campus Spaces and any donation made will go towards the continued expansion of services the VIC can provide to our military. So, please help with this effort by sending donations to: Albuquerque Chapter, MOAA, PO Box 5071, Albuquerque, NM 87185-5071.

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

#### ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERS 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAYS AND AWARD PRESENTATION/POW-MIA REMEMBRANCE

#### Reported by LTC Michael Houck, USA (Ret), 2nd VP

<u>When</u>: Friday, September 15, 2023 <u>Where</u>: NM Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE <u>Time</u>: 1300-1500

#### AGENDA

1200 – Arrivals, Arrange Conference Room, POW/MIA Flag, Set MIA Table, Social

**1300** – Chorus / Quartet (not confirmed)

Pledge of Allegiance; Welcoming Remarks

Chorus / Quartet (not confirmed)

#### Centenarian and Nonagenarians Birthdays in 2023

Chorus / Quartet (not confirmed)

MIA Table – Remembrance and Recognition Day

Chorus / Quartet (not confirmed)

1340 Lunch: Finger Sandwiches, cold salads, and beverages; Cake and Ice Cream

#### 1415 Award Presentation:

 Atomic Veterans Service Certificate (AVSC) and Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal to Al Baye (CW4 (R) USA; WWII Army vet Pacific)

Enewetak Atoll Test Site 1948 Operation SandStone Nuclear Weapons Tests

	Shot: X-RAY	Apr 15	200-foot (61-meter) tower on Enjebi Island	37 Kiloton
--	-------------	--------	---	------------

The purpose of the Sandstone tests were primarily tests of new bomb designs rather than of the effects of nuclear weapons. Three tests were carried out in April and May 1948 by Joint Task Force 7, with a work force of 10,366 personnel, of whom 9,890 were military.

SSG Al Baye, USA, member of the Firing and Engineering Branch. An assistant Scientific Director was responsible for the engineering and firing work. He selected a staff of engineers from Sandia Branch of LASL to carry out his duties. This branch was responsible for the following activities:

Weapon assembly and handling Ships' modifications and installations Engineering Communications liaison Firing circuitry liaison Construction liaison Firing circuitry liaison Construction liaison Industrial safety



PRESIDENT: Reg Rider, regrider49@gmail.com VICE-PRESIDENT: Ron Salley, jrsalley@me.com TREASURER: Tony Strati, casatrat@msn.com MEMBERSHIP: Karen Brown, kmbrown8@comcast.net

Reported by Brig Gen Regner Rider, USAF (Ret)



WOLF CREEK, CO: January 8-10, 2024 (2 nights' lodging at The Springs Resort & Spa, Pagosa Springs, 2 days skiing) Chair: Karen Brown, 505-856-1927, <u>kmbrown8@comcast.net</u> Co-Chair: Julianne Levings, 505-286-6303, <u>gjlevings@centurylink.net</u>



**TELLURIDE, CO**: January 21-25, 2024 (4 nights' lodging at **Victorian Inn**, Telluride, CO, 3 days skiing) Chair: Reg Rider, 505-944-5514, <u>regrider49@gmail.com</u> Co-Chair: Jack Menako, 505-797-1935, <u>jamenako@centurylink.net</u>

PURGATORY, CO: February 6-8, 2024 (2 nights' lodging in Best Western Rio Grande, Durango, CO, 2 days skiing) Chair: Sherri Jackson, 505-259-4610, jacksherrison@icloud.com Co-Chair: Bob Jackson, 505-259-2284, raj041455@gmail.com



CRESTED BUTTE, CO: February 19-23, 2024 (4 nights' lodging at Old Town Inn, 3 days skiing) Chair: Beth Clark, 505-292-4309, <u>nursebeth2@comcast.net</u> Co-Chair: Conni Brooks, 505-620-3795, connibrooks@comcast.net

Schedule of MOAA SKI CLUB Meetings/Parties Sign-up parties are at the NM Veterans Memorial at 5-7 pm on the following dates:

> September 17, 2023 October 15, 2023 November 19, 2023

Bring your favorite hors d'oeurve to share! Beverages provided. Find all the information needed on trips at <u>https://albumoaa.org/ski-club/</u>

Only ABQ Chapter, MOAA membership is required to be a Ski Club member:

https://albumoaa.org/how-to-join/



Reported by LTC Walter Paul USA (Ret), Legislative

On 6 July 2023 I testified on behalf of the NM Military/Veterans Leadership Council (MVLC) and NM MOAA at the Interim Joint House & Senate Military/Veterans Affairs Committee meeting at Angel Fire NM. The meeting was Chaired by Representative (Rep) Harry Garcia, Co-Chair Senator (Sen) Harold Pope. Other Committee members present were:

Rep Eliseo Lee Alcon, Rep Art De La Cruz, Sen Shannon D. Pinto, Rep John Block, Rep Stephanie Lord, Senator Michael Padilla, Representatives Andrea Reeb and Debra M. Sarinana.

I provided testimony in support of the three following legislative priority items for MVLC0.

**1. The Fix to the Military Retiree Tax Exemption** - add Surviving Spouses and eliminate the sunset.

During my testimony I mentioned that in March of 2023 the Governor regrettably line item vetoed the provisions to Fix the Military Retiree Tax Exemption. I further stated that the Governor also vetoed legislation for a study in 2021 concerning the impact of Military Retirees on NM - a study that members of the committee had give up some of their discretionary funds to fund.

I went on by saying that in 2021 the MVLC sent a letter to the Governor asking for her support and asking for a meeting with her and her staff. I told the committee that to this day we have not received a response to our letter.

#### 2. Potential Conflict between HJR05 & HJR06 (Veterans Property Tax Exemption update) -

Both will be on the ballot in 2024 General Election.

HJR05 increases the Veterans Property Tax Exemption from the current \$4,000 to \$10,000 and is also inflation indexed. HJR06 ties the Veterans Property Tax Exemption the % of VA Disability. 75% of NM Veterans have a 0% or no rating.

I pointed out that this could be a conflict if both pass. Rep Alcon the sponsor of the two measures assured me that they will be working on implementation legislation in 2024 session that will give the Veteran whichever is the greater amount.

(continued on next page)

I asked that the Committee provide us with a sample calculation of Veterans Prop Tax Exemption with the %Disability in place so we could share it with our members. Rep Alcon said he would get back to us. We will have to watch this legislation closely there seems to be some confusion.

**3. Veterans Homeless and Mental Health legislation** - the latest NM Sheltered and Unsheltered count (2020) counted only 252 homeless vets in NM. The whole HUD report for 2020 showed a total of 37,252 homeless vets in the US. VA estimates that on any given day there are 107,000 homeless vets in US (3x larger number that the HUD estimate).

So factoring the VA vs HUD data I told the committee that a conservative estimate for NM would be 700 - 900 homeless vets at any time. They agreed that the actual number should even be higher since Rep Garcia stated the homeless vets on the reservation are most likely not counted.

I suggested the committee should consider commissioning a study by one of our Universities to obtain a more accurate count (especially in rural areas). They agreed that they want to do data based legislation and that they need better data.

My testimony ended just before 1100. I then presented Representative Garcia & Senator Pope MOAA Certificates of Appreciation for their legislative leadership for the period 2019 - 2023. They both were very pleased.

## Meetings & Events

#### 2023 BOARD, SPECIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**Board and Special Meetings Calendar** 

Sept 7 - Board Meeting
Sept 12 - NM State Fair Booth
Sept 15 - Celebrate 100th Birthdays/Award Presentation
Oct 5 - Board Meeting
Oct 15 - Annual Meeting
Nov 2 - Board Meeting
Dec 7 - Board Meeting

- All Board meetings convene the first Thursday of every month and start at 11:30 AM MST at 2200 Grande Blvd SE, Suite B, Rio Rancho, NM 87124, unless otherwise noted. Access to meetings via ZOOM will continue. Changes to the above meeting dates and times will be announced in the newsletter and mass email distributions to the membership.
- The **October Annual Meeting** will be held at the Veterans Memorial on Louisiana Blvd. SE from 12:00PM 2PM.

Your Board continues to arrange a special addition to the Quarterly Potlucks and Annual Meeting where vendors will be available to share a variety of special information and items for sale, such as safety devices to protect you and your loved ones in your home, in your car and just going out for a stroll, how to apply for a remodel of your bathroom as a result of a physical challenge(s) through the Veterans Administration, and exploring healthcare insurance options.

You do not want to miss our Ski Club sign-up parties, scheduled on:

September 17, 2023 October 15, 2023 November 19, 2023

Please see page 9 for more information on the Ski Club parties.

Our ALBUMOAA Challenge Coins and ALBUMOAA lapel pins will be available for sale at all Quarterly Potluck Socials and the October Annual Meeting.

Coins are \$10 and lapel pins are \$5 each.



We are seeking volunteers for the following positions, to support the following events and activities:

#### **Positions:**

- Chapter Secretary
- Chapter Surviving Spouse Representative

#### **Events:**

- New Mexico State Fair, Military Appreciation Day -Chapter Table (September 12, 2023) - greeting visitors, responding to questions
- 100th Birthday Celebration & Awards Presentation -September 15
- Annual Chapter Meeting October 15

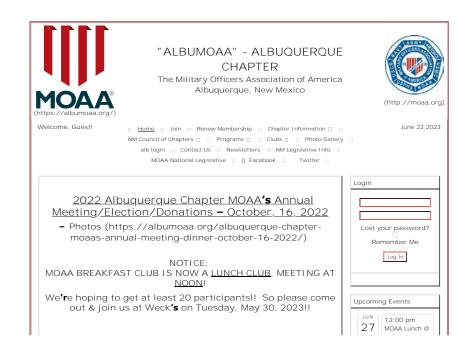
#### Activities:

• Represent the Chapter at the Veterans Memorial Park Visitor Center and Museum (details are posted in our July -August, 2023 newsletter)

Please contact Clint Whisonant, our Veterans Memorial Park Program Coordinator, at <u>clintwhiz@hotmail.com</u> for information on volunteering at the Veterans Memorial Park Visitor Center; Michael Houck, our Chapter 2d Vice President, at <u>2ndvice@albumoaa.org</u> for details on the 100th Birthday Celebration/Award Presentation and Annual Chapter Meeting; and Dr. Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, our Chapter President, at <u>president@albumoaa.org</u> regarding Chapter positions and NM State Fair Chapter Table.

### **Albuquerque Chapter MOAA Website Changes Coming!**

Reported by Major Allen Tate, USAF (Ret), Chapter Webmaster



We are continuing our journey to revise and invigorate our Chapter website. Organizations across the country have responded to our request for website design and hosting assistance. We are reviewing these responses and working the details of our new website.

The current website continues to function, providing critical information about our Chapter, NM Legislative Info, Photo Gallery, Newsletters, Clubs (Lunch, Ski, Tours), etc. However, the backbone of the site is still at risk and could fail at any time. So, our need is urgent for a replacement.

Please recognize our new website will be different from our current site. We'll strive to maintain similarities to our current site (Links, Pages, etc.) and will maintain the required attributes recommended by the National MOAA criteria.

I am still looking for any Albuquerque Chapter members interested in assisting with development and testing of the new website. If you are interested, please contact me at <u>webmaster@albumoaa.org</u> or at (505) 850-8121. Thank you.



#### CPT Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer, Psy.D. 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 service disabled veteran-owned small business.

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



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



Paul R Souder – August 15, 2023

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 Nar	Last Name F		Rank Servic		S	Spouse's Name		
Street	Street Apt City		City	State ZIP+4		4	Telephone Numbers			
E-Mail Address:				Nation	al Members	ship Number:				
(Active Duty	,Retired,	_Former Officer	,Surviving Spo	use) (Reg	ular,R	eserve,	National G	Guard (	_Male _	_Female)
Would you be v	villing to assist in	the operation of	of the Albuquerque	Chapter of MC	DAA? If so,	, what would	d be your n	nain area	ofintere	est?
Legislativ	e Affairs,Pub	olic Relations, _	Membership,	_Scholarship &	& Award, _	Personal	Affairs,	_Legal C	counsel	
Newslette	er,Chaplain, _	Finance,	_Programs & Activi	ities, <u></u> Data	Processin	g Other				
Do you have a	n interest in any o	of the following	clubs:Breakfa	ast Club,	Ski Club, _	Tours/I	Events,	Golf		
Please make ch	eck payable to:	Albuquerque	e Chapter, MOAA		Mail to:	Members	• •	querque (	Chapter	, MOAA
Applicant's Sig	gnature:		Da	te:		P.O. Box Albuquer	5071 que, NM 8	87185-507	71	
	MOAA Membership Application Form 1-2017			n 1-2017	Visit us on the web at www.albumoaa.org					

16