



**New Mexico Council of Chapters
Military Officers
Association of America**



Subject: New Mexico Council of Chapters (**NM CC**) Minutes, 09 December 2023 The NM CC meeting was conducted via a Zoom virtual meeting.

All Current Members are listed. A = attended marked with X

NAME	ORG	POS	A	EMAIL Cell
Jason Peete	NM CC	NM CC President	X	Jason_peete@yahoo.com 505-307-1079
Vacant	NM CC	NM CC Vice President		
Mark Perusse	NM CC/Don Root Tularosa Alamogordo	NM CC Sec'y/Past Pres.	X	bandit497@mac.com 575-405-9107
Vacant/Temp Jason	NM CC	NM CC Treasurer		Jason_peete@yahoo.com 505-307-1079
Stacey Goldstein-Dwyer	Albuquerque	President		drqd@gdpsychservices.com NA
Jim Talbert	Alamogordo	President		Jtalbert@zianet.com 575-442-6531
Richard Goodyear	Santa Fe (Roadrunner)	President	X	Rgoodyear47@comcast.net 505-551-2324
Gary Smith	Roswell	President		gmsmith@dfn.com NA
Jim Magnuson	Farmington (Totah)	President	X	Mag4nm@msn.com 505-30-3127
Michael Wisner	WSMR	1 st Vice President		Wisner_7@q.com NA
Christine S	Las Cruces (Mesilla Valley)	President	X	ltccas725@gmail.com 352-317-7129
Walter Paul	MVLC/Fellow	Leg Chair COCO, ABQ Past Pred	X	Wfrpaul@gmail.com 505-331-9047
Mike Houck	Albuquerque	Second VP	X	2ndvice@albumoaa.org 505-454-9851

Call To Order:

The General Meeting was called to order at 1107, 9 December 2023 by President Jason Peete.

The Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance **President's**

Comments/Report:

President Jason Peete welcomed all who were in attendance.

Jason attended Regional MOAA annual conference in Phoenix with Mesilla Valley Chapter President Chris Sauter and Legislative Liaison for the Council of Chapters Walter Paul also attending. Jason wants to do anything in his power to make local Chapter President's be successful. He is willing to restart and is doing local chapter visits and willing to go door to door to recruit new members. As confirmed by all Presidents here in our area membership is still trending down. Initiative to combine chapter activities across state to try a different paradigm. Jason requests consider using Santa Fe chapter NM CC electronic President's report for future meetings. Of note new initiative January will be combined Mesilla Valley and Don Root joint meeting with guest speaker at WSMR and Jason also attending. Also planning in person NM CC SPRING MEETING. Col Chuck Hartman of Don Root Chapter is in calls with Jason to get further details. Don Root hosting NM CC SPRING MEETING.

Chapter Reports:

Don Root Tularosa Basin: Secretary Mark presented activities/membership update for President Jim Talbert. 41 members with about 15 attending the monthly dinner meetings. Also, the fact that the Don Root Tularosa Basin chapter newsletter put out by spouse Matt Grinberg is a key part of keeping the chapter going during the 2023 year. In November we had Holloman AFB Bare Base tour for our MOAA Chapter. Col Hartmann our member and former CC facilitated the tour. If you attended the BARE BASE trip, Chapter President Jim Talbert was allowed to operate the 35K RT240 RTCH forklift collapsible to fit into a C-17. Tops the scale around 130,000 pounds and Bare Base has at least two deployable cities used in the past like Hurricane Katrina mobile city. Great idea to have more member activities than just dinners. We had 24 in attendance.

Albuquerque: Mike delivered the report on the Chapter's behalf. The chapter completed annual meeting 15 Oct 2023 with 57 attending. Presented gifts to Veteran's Integration Center (VIC), BSM Rio Grande, BSM Valencia County, Fisher House, and Paws & Stripes. Paws and Stripes received a 3-year PTSD and suicide prevention research grant from the VA. With the grant they are able to hire additional mental health counselors, social worker, and dog trainer. They expanded their client intake capacity and have attained it with 20 veterans /dogs for the Class of 2023.

On 15 Sep 2023 the Albuquerque Chapter had its 100th birthday member recognition activities. The meeting was attended by one 100-year-old WW II Pacific Theater Veteran and one 98-year-old Europe-France-Belgium-Netherlands-Battle of the Bulge Veteran.

Our Chapter's 15 Sep 2023 recognition activities included National POW/MIA Day by recognizing a Korean War and Viet Nam War veteran who were former POWs. The New Mexico POW/MIA Veterans Council of The National League of POW/MIA Families had not met in Albuquerque since the COVID lockdowns. Albuquerque MOAA conducted the 15 Sep 2023 POW/MIA Day recognition ceremony at the NM Veterans Memorial Park and included the Missing Man Table tribute in remembrance and in honor of all POW/MIAs.

The final agenda item for the Albuquerque MOAA member recognition activity on 15 Sept 2023 was the presentation of the Atomic Veterans Service Certificate (AVSC) and Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal to Al Baye (CWO4 (R) USA; WWII Army vet Pacific) for his direct participation at Enewetak Atoll Test Site in 1948 Operation Sandstone Nuclear Weapons Tests. Then SSG Al Baye, US Army, was a member of the Sandia-Los Alamos team and the weapon assembly, handling, and arming technician for "Shot: X-Ray", a 37-kiloton bomb placed on a 200-foot testing

tower on Enjebi Island on April 14, 1948, that was activated, fired, dropped, and successfully detonated. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA, Fort Belvoir, VA) is the DOD Agency that maintains the personnel, military participating units, radiation exposure, and testing records for the conducted Atomic atmospheric and underground nuclear weapons tests. DTRA approved the Al Baye and Albuquerque MOAA filed application and returned the Nuclear Veterans DOD Commendation Medal and Certificate for CWO4 Al Baye to Albuquerque MOAA for individual presentation. BG (R) C. Robert Kemble, Albuquerque MOAA member and Europe-France-Belgium-Netherlands-Battle of the Bulge Veteran presented the Nuclear Veterans DOD Commendation Medal and Certificate for CWO4 Al Baye.

Albuquerque MOAA also participated in City of Albuquerque 11 November Veterans Day parade and NM Veterans Memorial Park activities. A goal for Albuquerque MOAA and the United Veterans Council of Greater Albuquerque is to influence the City of Albuquerque leaders to have a more veteran centric celebration rather than repeatedly having politicians speak about what they proposed or sponsored with others politically. Over the last two years, the only veterans recognized at the city sponsored Veterans' Day event have been the retiring Air Force canines from Kirtland AFB.

Albuquerque Chapter MOAA will hold its annual members Memorial Service on 4 May 2024 for our recently deceased veterans with Buglers, Color Guard, Chorus, and a speaker. Joe Loisel (COL (R) USA) passed away this year. We hope to have a cohort or two speak to Joe's post-retirement contributions to veterans and Veterans Service Organizations in New Mexico. These would include the 2001 founding, fund raising, land acquisition, site planning, development and construction of the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park and Museum in Albuquerque; the organization of the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park Foundation to manage the Park and Museum; the naming of the Virginia class nuclear missile submarine as U.S.S. New Mexico (SSN 779) Construction awarded on August 2003, Construction began January 2004, keel laid down on April 2008, and commissioned in 2010; and the founding of the NM Council of the Navy League of which he became the President; and working with the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County business community to create a Veteran of the Year Award from the New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC). The eulogies from those that worked with him will honor his leadership for all Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) in the greater Albuquerque area that serve and advocate for the NM veteran community.

In total, the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park and Museum and conference room services and facility is used by national and New Mexico VSO's, the U.S. Veterans Administration, State of New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, Sandia National Laboratory, active-duty units assigned to Kirtland Air Force Base, NM National Guard, University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico College, the City of Albuquerque departments and offices, and Bernalillo County government departments and offices. The costs savings to the VSO's using the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park and Museum conference facility is in the \$100,000 of dollars yearly of facility service, use, and rental fees that are returned as charitable contributions and professional service fees to assist veterans and provide direct assistance to veterans and their families for shelter, clothing, subsistence, and health care in New Mexico communities. VSOs in turn provide volunteer services to the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park and Museum and to other VSO's sponsoring support services and direct assistance to veterans and their families.

Albuquerque Chapter MOAA provided Meal Train supporting services by preparing Thanksgiving dinner for veterans' family members and care givers staying at the Fisher House on Thanksgiving and over the Thanksgiving holiday. A veteran's family members and/or care givers staying at the Fisher House are there because the military veteran is a hospitalized inpatient at the VA Medical Center. Two families staying at the Fisher House, both, had their veteran grandfathers pass

away early morning on Thanksgiving Day. We supported and provided Thanksgiving meals of tamales, pinto beans, Mexican Corn, and kale-apple salad to the appreciative guest families at the Fisher House through the weekend.

Trend for Albuquerque Chapter MOAA membership is down with 165 regular members and 243 total members with surviving spouses, Associates, and Ski Club members factored in November 2023. Members in July 2023 were 179 regular members and 269 total members with surviving spouses, Associates, and Ski Club members factored in July 2023. Members in May 2023 were 176 regular members and 272 total members with surviving spouses, Associates, and Ski Club members factored in May 2023.

Ski trips upcoming are to Wolf Creek on January 9th and to Telluride January 21st.

Las Cruces: Christina Sautter reported 35 members and 18-20 attending their monthly dinner meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Chris attended Regional MOAA conference with Jason Peete. Key issue working is asking each member to recruit one new member. We tried luncheon format, but it did not take off. Participated in Veteran Stand down and the NM State University Veterans Week picnic. We are sharing our newsletter with Don Root Tularosa Basin chapter and plan on joint meeting in Jan 24 with them at WSMR.

Farmington: 13 members with trend being down. Have meetings at Porer's Steak House in Aug thru May and take summer off. 10 Dec is Christmas party. Speakers are key part of our chapter with Nov speaker San Juan Community College Veterans Affairs Office speaker. January's Speaker will be San Juan County Sheriff. We were active in the "wall that heals" visit and made a donation.

Santa Fe: Michael Beasley for Richard Goodyear presented report; (available on request and will send out as example of what each President should submit for next CC meeting) Membership - 41 regular, four surviving. Two new last month. Chapter involved in Wreaths Across America activities. June had ROTC support. July membership meeting had speaker experience from Clark AFB, during Vietnam. In November had annual business meeting at Flying Tortilla. Board meetings via zoom in May, July, Aug, and Oct. Still trying to merge meetings ABQ and Santa Fe.

State Initiatives and Legislative Affairs:

Walter Paul presented national initiatives data using workbook available at National web sites and attached. Presented at Phoenix conference it has over 120 pages and he highlighted interesting data like that found on page 33 regarding data on membership. Another example shown on page 102 on pharmacy and other benefits. He reviewed that the most effective federal and state successes in new legislation were done by local chapter members. Walter is still key person for NM Military Veterans Legislative Council (MVLN). Get on NMVLC email thread if you want regular updates.

Secretary's Report and Minutes:

Minutes for last meeting Apr 16 23 submitted copy today to all attending. Approved. No comments.

Surviving Spouses: was skipped since not able to attend/**VACANT Treasurer's Report:**

- The Treasurer's Report was briefed showing bank statement . Total: \$ 7597.44. The statement is on file. IRS filing submitted annually by Jason. Need Treasurer!

VACANT

MOAA National Update:/ Legislative Affairs Report: Action: CofC Secretary send Walter a list of current Chapter presidents, contact info (on this copy of minutes). Provide Walter rank and organization also.

1. Our NM Team is Walter team leader & Maj Peter Rose (USAF JAG)
2. File sharing initiative using EVERPLANS. Expanding to allow all to upload all documents for MOAA CC.

Old Business: Need **CC Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President**. Each chapter to get one name from each and a minimum convince a Nomination Committee.

Nominating committee needs to be formed in January. Secretary will send out invites and try to convene.

Approved two votes;

1. Chapter dues cancelled for each chapter to NM CC
2. NM CC WILL PAY FOR ROTC MEDALS for each chapter.

New Business:

As mentioned in Presidents comments Jason is committed to support Presidents to succeed in MOAA in trying times.

Continue planning the Spring 2024 CofC meeting as an in person meeting. Date & Time/ Location TBD.

Schedule: (ALL FALL MEETINGS VIRTUAL)

Spring 2024: Don Root Host (Get with Chapter officers of Don Root) Spring 2025: Farmington.

Spring 2026: Las Cruces

Spring 2027: Roswell

Spring 2028: Santa Fe

Next NM CC meeting: The next CofC meeting will be held in Spring 2024 per rotating schedule; Don Root hosting in person.

Adjournment:

The NM CofC meeting was adjourned at 1255, Respectfully Submitted Minutes by:
Mark R. Perusse, NM CC Secretary