



MOAATM
Military Officers Association of America



DECEMBER 2022

GO GUARDIANS!

National MOAA and the Tucson
Chapter are non-partisan

THE TERRITORIAL

TUCSON, ARIZONA CHAPTER



**FROM
THE
EAGLE'S
NEST**

Movers were due to unload some goods there and then deliver the rest to Florida. Bill will return to Tucson for the Christmas dinner and wish each other all a fond farewell.

The Christmas Party, Dec 15, at Tucson Country Club. will feature a menu of chicken or salmon. Cost is \$45 for each. Entertainment by the renowned Tucson Girls Chorus will follow. The TCC is always beautifully decorated for this time of year.

I am now the new chapter president again, returning from having served 7 years prior. I will focus on recruiting to fills positions for Programs and Legislative Liaison. These are exciting positions offering interactions with the community to set up meeting speakers and meet with lawmakers to help enact laws beneficial to MOAA members.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

It is time to close out 2022 and start a new year 2023. There has been a lot of turmoil within our nation, Hopefully 2023 will be a change for the better.

We need to thank Col Bill Wojciechowski for his leadership during the past three years, He led us through uncertain times with covid causing havoc and mask mandates. But we did survive. Bill's wife passed away earlier this year. He sold his house in Tucson and is moving to Florida to be nearer his children. At this time he made it as far as Alabama visiting one of his offspring and also waiting for his household goods to arrive. The movers were two days late picking up his load in Tucson which affected the delivery in Alabama.

MOAA MISSION

Military Officers Association of America is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold of have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or NOAA and their surviving spouse.

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Tucson MOAA Mission

1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
2. Advocate and support the Arizona and metro Tucson programs, activities, and proposed legislation.
3. Encourage and promote a spirit of volunteerism and participation in programs and activities beneficial to Tucson civic and military communities.

Tucson Chapter Activities

Tucson MOAA Board meets the first Wednesday of the month, at 2p.m. via ZOOM.

Members are invited to submit items for consideration to the Secretary: pam.devine@azmoves.com, not later than one week prior to the meeting.

If you desire to participate, please email chuck.vaughan@comcast.net to receive the access link.

Membership meetings are 11:30 am, each fourth Thursday at the Vivace Restaurant, September through May.



TUCSON CHAPTER (<http://www.tucsonmoaa.org>)

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Chaplain: Vacant

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505-553-4364/Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

ROTC /JROTC/Scholarships: Doug May Lt Col, USAF, (retired) 520-818-3309/DougMay@gmail.com

VA LOCAL CONTACT NUMBERS

- **Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)**
520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262
- **Caregiver Support Program**
520-792-1450 extension 5390
- **Patient Advocate Office**
520-629-1819
- **Care in the Community**
520-792-1450 extension 6555
- **Women's Health Clinic**
520-629-4885
- **Suicide Prevention Coordinator**
520-792-1450 extension 64

DMAFB LOCAL CONTACT NUMBERS

Base Welcome Center	520-228-4886
Info and Referral Services	520-228-5690
ID/CAC card processing	520-228-4425
Base Exchange	520-748-7887
Commissary	520-228-3116

OUR CHAPTERS

HELP NEEDED: Become a MOAA Mover. Volunteer for:

Catalina: Fundraising Chair, Chaplin

Tucson: Chapter VP/Program Chair, Chaplin, Legislative Chair

Our MOAA programs and their quality depend on the voluntary efforts of our members. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapters' teams.

Contact Tucson Chapter Tom Owens, Col at owensttt@gmail.com or Catalina Mountains Chapter President Capt. Charles Vaughan @chuck.vaughan@comcast.net.

CATALINA MOUNTAINS
CHAPTER

<http://www.tucsonmoaa.com>

President: Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN,
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520-825-0604, maybull@aol.com

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Audio/Visual: Jeff Peckeron, Capt, USMC,
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Fundraising: Vacant

Chaplain: Vacant

CMC ACTIVITY

**CMC membership meetings
are the third Saturday of
the months of October
through April, at 11:30
hours, at locations TBA in
Saddlebrooke.**

Contact:

Chuck Vaughan,
505-553-4364. Spouses are al-
ways welcome. Seating is
limited to the first forty (40)
members and guests who con-
firm their attendance. A meet-
ing agenda will be provided to
all attendees via email.

EDITORIAL POLICY

THIS MOAA NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY IS SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE TUCSON AND CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTERS. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS/EDITOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MOAA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE EDITOR, OR ANY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR AGENCIES.

Grant Orvik, Editor

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Board Meeting Highlights

1. President : Pledge and welcome
 - Chase Bank - change signatory card
 - Recruiting new Board members (Programs)
2. Secretary: Approve minutes of November 9 Board meeting.
3. Treasurer's reports: Gary Pettett
 - Financials
 - Budget
 - Compliance concerns (e.g., Luke audit)
4. Membership: Gary Pettett
6. Esperanza En Escalante update. (Vaughan)
7. Legislative update. (WOJ)
8. Veterans Affairs Committee update. (HOLLIS)
- 9 ROTC/JROTC/SCHOLARSHIPS update. (MAY)
10. ESGR/BECONNECTED/FACEBOOK update. (ORVIK)
11. Surviving Spouse/D-MAFB community update. (PARKS)
13. Webpage status
14. Newsletter status

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

- December 15: Tucson Country Club Christmas dinner with the Tucson Girls Chorus to perform.

We will hold a special raffle. So far we have 27 RSVPs. Chapter will cover approximately \$13/dinner, so members cost is \$45 each.

We reached out to surviving spouses and received one positive reply.

- January 26: Mark Taylor, CAP Board Vice-President to discuss Tucson water issues.

- February 22: Valerie Cavazos, KOLD reporter will discuss Investigative Reporting activities; also Cmdr Orvik will report on MOAA National meeting

- March 23: Brenda Hughey will discuss Watershed Study Group

- April 27: ROTC Awards /; scholarships

- May 25: TBD

Treasurer and Membership Report

Gary Pettett stated that our chapter has 54 members with approximately 26 renewals for 2023.

Col Gary Pettett announced financial status of \$14k in scholarship, \$400 in Jim Click Raffle money, \$4k checking account. The Investment acct is down about \$1k to about \$9k.

We still need a basic Budget developed.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Committee Update

Ann Hollis has been approved and is waiting to be connected to the group. Most activities will be taking place after January 2023.

CMC Article

Greetings everyone,

From our house we can see snow on the Catalina Mountains; the weather has definitely changed in the past couple of days. Christmas is just around the corner and with Christmas and the holidays comes time spent with family and friends. I hope you all enjoy the holidays and are able to spend time with family and friends.

The Catalina Mountains Chapter has had a busy fall with our chartering ceremony, luncheons in October, November and December, placing wreaths on veteran's graves at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana, and participating in the Tucson Chapter's Christmas Party. We've also attempted to assist Esperanza En Escalante with two events this fall; teaching a short course in financial literacy and doing some painting of exterior porches. We were not able to complete either event; the rain caused us to postpone the exterior painting and staffing problems caused us to re-schedule our short course. I am hoping that sometime this spring both events will take place.

During this holiday season, I ask that you consider those less fortunate than yourself. Many of us have a good retirement income and have a nice home in which we live. Please consider donating to the many different charities that are helping those less fortunate this holiday season. There are many good local charities out there you can support in the Tucson area. I must warn you that there are charities out there that claim to support those less fortunate but the support they provide is sometimes lacking. If you do choose to support a local charity, or even a national charity, be sure it is a reputable charity.

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Chuck Vaughan

President, Catalina Mountains Chapter

Legislative Update

FEDERAL

As we go to press, the 2023 NDAA has passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 329-101. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schirmer is scheduling the Senate vote this week. Arizona's house delegation split on the vote, with all Republican members voting Nay. We have our work cut out for us this next year.

The bill includes a 4.6% pay raise for active duty, recruiting and retention bonuses, and a wide range of BAH and BNA upgrades, expansion of child care benefits, Guard and Reserve, and a "open season" for retirees to opt in or out of the SBP. The COVID vaccine mandate disappeared in negotiations. As the triple threat of COVID variants, RSV, and the flu ramps up this winter, this will probably lead to more mandatory masking and restrictions on in-person and inside gatherings at active facilities to ensure readiness is not affected.

You can weigh in with the Arizona delegation here: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43445/>.

December 16 the current FY2023 Continuing Resolution for the FY2023 budget is set to expire. If the Senate and House do not agree on at least a short-term CR, the federal government, minus essential services, shuts down. The main contention is in the Senate, but negotiations this past weekend appear to have made some breakthroughs. MOAA is urging members to let their Senate and House members know that funding essential functions, including defense and veteran affairs, should not be held hostage to partisan brawl's. You can weigh in with the Arizona delegation here: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/40000/>.

The new Congress will start the year off with a clean slate. MOAA will update their legislative priorities for the first session of the 118th Congress after the new bodies convene in January. It is hoped it will not include the FY2023 budget.

STATE

Governor-elect Katie Hobbs has announced her bipartisan transition team. Co-Chairs are Mike Haener (former Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs – Gov. Napolitano) and Monica Villalobos (President & CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce). The 32 member transition team (a list can be found at <https://katiehobbs.org/governor-elect-katie-hobbs-announces-transition-team-leaders/>) is tasked with vetting and recommending key departmental heads, including the Director of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs and Director of Veterans Services. The Governor-elect assumes office on January 1 along with other key executive officials (barring substantive legal challenges). A formal inauguration will take place January 5.

The new Arizona Senate will consist of 16 Republicans and 13 Democrats. The Arizona House will be divided into 30 Republicans and 29 Democrats. The legislative regular session runs from January 9 through April 18.

<https://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

Surviving Spouse and Personal Affairs

D-M RAO Director Charles Schable reported at December 5 D-M RAO meeting that 355 th Wing Commander, Col Scott C. Mills and his wife, Michele, visited the RAO office as part of his immersion into the Base. Col Mills knew about the RAO, but was impressed with the array of programs it connects retirees with and wants to support its mission. He will continue the Wing Commander representation at the RAO meetings.

Base News: Col Paul Sheets, 355th Vice Wing Commander, attended the December meeting and reported on the reinstated inside mask mandate at the Base. The military forces are quite concerned with the high transmission rate and increasing number of COVID/Flu/RSV cases in Arizona and the potential impact on readiness. Gatherings at D-M are currently limited to 250 persons and the inside mask mandate has also been instituted Ft Huachuca and Luke AFB. They will reevaluate weekly and if rates drop to medium or low they will drop the mandate; conversely increases in Pima, Maricopa, or Cochise counties, they could decrease gathering size which would affect access to PX, Commissary, and Shopette. They are hoping for the decrease as now most troops are back from deployments and the Holiday Season is upon us! Big shout-out to Lt Col Daniel Krunglevich, Deputy Commander, 355 th Mission Support Group, who was able to get the RAO phones fixed! Also some roof tile repair.

Pharmacy: Phone line is down and there is no get-well date. Please pull a ticket or use the QR code activation system on your smartphone.

PX: Bids for the renovation are due by end of year. They expect a start by end of February or early March. Hoping to get it done by end of year.

Commissary: Holiday décor, poinsettias, and trees are in! Mask mandate enforced at door. Holiday closure hours: 4 pm Xmas Eve; closed Xmas and New Year's Day.

Toy Room is set up in conference room at the Military & Family Readiness Center on base. Drop-off is during regular business hours.

TMC Hospice/Gold Star: Veterans Day Celebration was a success. Wreaths Across America will be December 17 @1000, East Lawn Cemetery, 5801 E. Grant Rd. This year, 1,766 wreaths will be placed, the rest will be flags.

D-M RAO Newsletter: Barb Estes reported they are working on the next issue which will feature articles on the new CAC cards which will be mandatory by 2026. Also an article on ramping up the VITA Tax Center. Volunteers always needed.

Society of Military Widows: Kick-off luncheon in November was a success. They have maintained membership levels despite the pandemic setbacks. Currently, a toy drive is on.