



# The Salute express



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August. Although [MOAA](#) and [PACMOAA](#) actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXVIII Issue VIII

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October 2019

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As any of you that attended the September dinner meeting saw, I was in a wheelchair due to a partial tendon tear and that has significantly impeded my ability to sit at the computer to work on the newsletter. As of my Dr. visit on 1 October, I no longer have to wear the CAM boot, use a wheelchair or stay off my foot most of the time!!! I am slowly progressing and can now sit at the computer comfortably. In last month's From the President, I thanked the Churchland MCJROTC cadets under the direction of Gunnery Sgt Nash who presented the colors at the June dinner meeting honoring the scholarship winners. Unfortunately,

I neglected to list their names: Cadet SFC Boykins and Cadet SSG Boykins (both were sworn into the U.S. Army the day of our September meeting at Ft Lee; Cadet SSG Brown; and Cadet 1SG Peterson. These young men could not stay for dinner as they had to go home to study for exams the next morning!!

The September meeting had 28 attendees including members, spouses, guests: Doug Weller's guest Mollie Donovan, Hal and Brenda Hostetler's guests Bill and Karen Smith, and Paul Pratt's guest Cadet A.C. Evseichik, as well as the speaker MAJ Brian Gallavan and his daughter Tori. The attendance at dinner meetings this year has ranged from 24 - 30, with 1 to 2 dinners paid for by PACMOAA each month - speakers/speaker's spouse/assistant. **To break even with attendees paying \$30.00/meal, PACMOAA needs to have 30 attendees to pay for 1 speaker!!** More information about this issue will be in the November newsletter for the Annual Membership Meeting.

Our speaker was MAJ Brian Gallavan, CDR, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry, which is headquartered in Portsmouth and he will be promoted to LT COL on 1 October. He gave a great overview of the Virginia National Guard which is comprised of 7,500 Army Guard Soldiers; 1,200 Air Guard; 400 Virginia Defense Force; 1,500 Full Time Staff Members; 1,200 Active Guard and Reserve or Federal Technicians; and 315 State employees, some full time and some part time.

Some interesting facts: Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 15,000 Virginia Guard Soldiers and Airmen have mobilized-1,800 in 2016/2017 and approximately 9,700 Soldiers and Airmen have been called to State active duty!! MAJ Gallavan briefly reviewed a very complex organizational chart which basically showed that the VA National Guard has a dual mission role - A dual-status force with state and federal missions. Another slide reviewed all the components of the VA National Guard including one I was not familiar with - the VA Defense Force.

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### OCTOBERCALENDAR

08-09 YOM KIPPUR	14 COLUMBUS DAY
09 VCOC MEETING	26 DAY OF THE DEPLOYED
10 PACMOAA DINNER MEETING	27 NAVY DAY
13 U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY	31 HALLOWEEN

### OCTOBERDINNER

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [MAP](#) to HGI Harbour View. Social hour begins at 5:30 PM, dinner served at 6PM.

#### MENU

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing  
 Chicken Florentine – Spinach, Tomatoes and White Wine Sauce  
 Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable medley  
 Rolls and Butter  
 Chef's choice for Desserts  
 Ice Tea, Coffee, Water

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** with Sherry Ferki at 686-4650 or by email at [navmed1@cox.net](mailto:navmed1@cox.net). Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

**A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.**

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

### GUEST SPEAKER

On 5 November 2019, all 40 Senate seats and all 100 House seats will be up for election in the Virginia General Assembly. With this thought in mind, PACMOAA sought to get some of the members running for election to be the October speakers. Both Delegate Emily Brewer, 64th District (including Smithfield and Suffolk), Delegate Chris Jones, 76th District (including parts of Suffolk and Chesapeake) have previous commitments. Senator John Cosgrove (14th District, Chesapeake) expressed interest in attending the 10 October meeting to PACMOAA member Herb DeGroft several weeks ago but has been unresponsive to several emails and voice mail messages left in his offices as of 1 October. President Ferki's experience trying to contact both local and national congressmen have been a very frustrating experience with several offices having their voice mail full and unable to take messages and/or no response to emails and messages left.

Our speaker will have a brief intro, answer questions from the group and then have a brief summary.

### Delegate Steve Heretick

Steve Heretick readily agreed to be a speaker for PACMOAA several months ago. He is a local attorney, a former member of the Portsmouth City Council, and serves as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 79th House District of Virginia. Steve's district includes the major portions of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Chesapeake.



Steve is currently assigned by the Speaker of the House to the House Committees on Finance, Commerce and Labor, and Cities, Counties, and Towns. He has recently served on the Speaker's House Select Committee on School Safety and the Coal Ash Study Commission. During his service in the House of Delegates, Steve brought home full funding from the state for the long-neglected port host impact fees, has introduced several major bills seeking relief of the tolls on our tunnels, and has introduced several significant economic development initiatives, including legislation which will pave the way for wireless communication infrastructure development to make Virginia among the very first all 5-G states in the country. Steve has been a strong supporter of the development of our ports, and has committed significant resources to update the capacities of the Norfolk International Terminal, the Portsmouth Marine Terminal, and the Virginia International Gateway facility, together with widening and deepening of the Hampton Roads channel, to make our port the most advanced on the Eastern seaboard.

Steve is a graduate of the College of William & Mary and the Villanova University Law School. He served for over a decade on the Virginia Board of Medicine under three Governors, and was elected President of the Board of Medicine twice during his tenure.

He remains the only non-physician in Virginia history to serve in that role. Steve has also served in national healthcare policy roles on the board of the Federation of State Medical Boards, and was past President of its Foundation. Currently, Steve chairs a committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Steve lives in Portsmouth. He's married to Stephanie, and they have a son, Stephenson, who loves to fish and everything connected to our waterways.

On the Portsmouth City Council, and now in the Virginia General Assembly, Steve is known for his quiet manner, his strategic vision, and his proven ability to work with leaders and citizens at every level to get things done. Bio from Steve's office.

**Congressman Bobby Scott was scheduled to attend the meeting but was notified late on 27 September that he had to be in D.C. on 10 October.**

(Continued from page 1) **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

It is Virginia's all-volunteer reserve force authorized by the Code of Virginia and reporting to the Adjutant General of Virginia. VDF members volunteer their time for training and community support and are only paid when called to state active duty by an authorization from the Governor of Virginia.



Many great slides were included showing the different roles of the Guardsman and their equipment - including lots of planes and weapons!! MAJ Gallavan noted the increased use of social media to reach most to the younger members. Another interesting discussion was about the history of the 116th Infantry Brigade, The Stonewall Brigade with history over 275 years from 1742 to 2017.

The National Guard commitment has changed from the old days: *One weekend a month, 2 weeks in the summer!*

**Now:** Army National Guard 4.0...more like 4 days a month, 3 weeks in the summer...and schools (2 weeks to 2 years)...and other training (Hazmat, ABN, AASLT, ARC, UMO, etc)...and support to other units (OC/T, cadre, external evals)...and planning conferences. Current needs are being accomplished with 58 Brigade Combat Teams on Total Army (small army) - 28 of them are Army National Guard; "Fight Tonight" (decrease mobilization time), enhanced readiness, increased CTC rotations and active duty partnering. I have a copy of this very interesting and informative presentation - it's PowerPoint - that I can email to anyone that is interested.

Since all Virginia Legislative seats are up for election this November, PACMOAA invited several state legislators to be speakers at our October meeting. See more information later in the newsletter per the speakers and program.

I hope to see many of you at our October dinner meeting and please accept my apologies for the lateness of this newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### WELCOME ABOARD

***The Salute* extends a hearty welcome to COL William (Bill) Smith and his wife Karen from Portsmouth as well as a warm welcome back to William (Conrad) Strickland from Portsmouth**



*Picture to left: New member Bill smith and his wife, Karen, with Hal and Brenda Hostetler*

PACMOAA currently has 70 members. It was reported in last month's newsletter that PACMOAA had 73 members but several members that had not paid their dues for 2019 had not been deleted. I am sorry for the incorrect information. Please continue to invite eligible members to our dinners- their dinner and that of their spouse will be half price through the end of 2019. Dolly Cherrington is conducting an ongoing membership

drive but we all need to help!! The Christmas Gala would be a great time to invite a potential member.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine**

Even though it's past 1 October, the date the new Defense Health Agency was supposed to assume command of all military medical care systems, MOAA is still urging members, their family members, and friends to send emails, letters or call your congressmen to let them know your concerns about these proposed changes. Going to the MOAA website at [www.takeaction.moaa.org](http://www.takeaction.moaa.org) is the fastest way to access information about this issue. Again, MOAA is requesting that the DOD/Congress do an in depth evaluation of the impact on active duty troops, their families and retirees of these proposed changes, including a reduction of 18,000 military medical personnel.

### **Act Now to End the Widows Tax**

Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows' tax. For approximately 66,000 military survivors, the widows tax makes SBP the only insurance that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting. The House version of the NDAA (National Defense Appropriations Act) included a repeal of the widow's tax but the Senate version did not include that provision. On 25 September, the Senate voted unanimously to approve "a motion to instruct" the conference committee working on the NDAA, a non-binding instruction to those members to include the widow's tax in their final bill. The vote was 94-0 with several Senators not voting. I'm sure this support was in part due to the many phone calls, emails, etc. they received. Again, MOAA is encouraging members and their family members to continue to contact their congressmen to support repealing the widow's tax. Surviving spouses have been trying to get this changed for many years and this is the closest they have ever come to achieving their goal. **These are only two of the issues MOAA is work on at this time!!**

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

At the September meeting, LT COL Pratt thanked PACMOAA members for their contributions to the JROTC Hampton Roads Senior Leadership Camp (HR SLC) that was held at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach in August. He described the reason the MCJROTC needs financial assistance in order to continue their programs. Churchland High School doesn't provide any funds for the cadets uniforms, medals or activities. Buses have to be rented to take cadets to different competitive meets throughout the year and for the Senior Leadership Camp. The MCJROTC are very active in community events like parades, Toys for Tots collections, etc. as well as competitive meets. The position of the regional leader for the regions the Churchland MCJROTC falls under is vacant and that creates difficulty in obtaining funding from that source. Fund raisers are held all year long - like a recent event at Panera (for all meals sold between 1600 and 2000 on the specified day, 10%



when to the MCJROTC), car washes, etc. I periodically send out notices when a fund-raising activity is scheduled to assist LT COL Pratt and the cadets in raising money to support all their activities. The JROTC is a great way for young men and women to learn team work, discipline and leadership skills and they deserve all the assistance we can provide.

*PACMOAA Board of Director member, Whitney Jones, presented Cadet Chloe Graham the MOAA JROTC Medal at Churchland High School in May 2017.*

## FROM VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS OF MOAA

September 24, 2019

Dear Chapter President,

This letter is sent as a reminder on the issue of fundraising for an additional MOAA Mobile for the Virginia Veteran Cemeteries that was again discussed at the 2019 Q2 VCOC Meeting in April. The decision was made at this meeting to request chapters' and individuals' support in raising the necessary monies. Subsequently an article appeared in the VCOC 2019 Q2 Crier Newsletter published on the website. As chapter president, please share the following information with your membership if you have not already done so. VCOC is actively seeking contributions for an additional MOAA Mobile.

All three Virginia Veteran Cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin & Suffolk report high value from the MOAA mobiles currently in use to assist family visitors with mobility limitations in accessing gravesites. The MOAA mobile is a converted golf cart that has been totally professionally refurbished to include a rear seat that can accommodate two additional passengers where golf clubs were previously carried. These carts enable family members to be transported close to gravesites when ambulation or sure footing is otherwise not possible.

In the past, multiple chapters within VCOC contributed to the project to provide MOAA Mobiles to the cemeteries. A current quote from the same company used in 2014 for a refurbished golf cart with delivery is \$4420. With the current VCOC restricted funds, an additional \$1700 is the minimum fundraising goal. *Please forward your Chapter and individual contributions made payable to VCOC to: LCOL Jim Stephan, 1707 Beach Road, Hampton VA 23664. Be sure to notate on the check memo that it is intended for the MOAA Mobile Fund.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Warren, COL, USA, Retired  
President, Virginia Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America

## HELP US HELP YOU - ELECTIONS 2019

Members elected this November will serve from January 2020 to January 2022.

Please consider becoming a member of the Leadership Team as an elected officer or as a committee member. PACMOAA needs as many different perspectives as possible to help us represent all our members and their interests! Nominations Chair is Hal Hostetler. If you are interested in running for any of the positions listed below or have any questions, please contact Hal (757-483-8943, halbren@verizon.net) or Sherry (757-686-4650, navmed1@cox.net ) **before 25 October . Each person running for office will need to submit a bio to Sherry Ferki at navmed1@cox.net.**

The Board of Directors is composed of the elective officers : president, 1st and 2nd vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, the immediate past president, and four elective directors who will serve for a period of two years. Positions to be filled include:

**1st Vice President** : Is Program Chair, a member of the Board of Directors, and fills in for the President in his absence.

**2nd Vice President:** Is a member of Board of Directors and Membership Chair.

**Treasurer:** Collects dues and maintains financial records. Prepares a quarterly budget and annual report to the board. Financial or accounting background would be helpful!

**Two Board Members:** "The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of PACMOAA, shall determine its policies or changes therein within the limits of the Bylaws, shall actively prosecute its purposes, and shall exercise direction in the disbursement of funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as may be deemed advisable and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such agents as it may consider necessary". From PACMOAA Bylaws. They also participate in quarterly board meetings and other duties as designated.

## SAYINGS OF MARK TWAIN

A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers.

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it.

When a man loves cats, I am his friend and comrade without further introduction.

Why shouldn't truth be stranger than fiction? Fiction, after all, has to make sense.

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

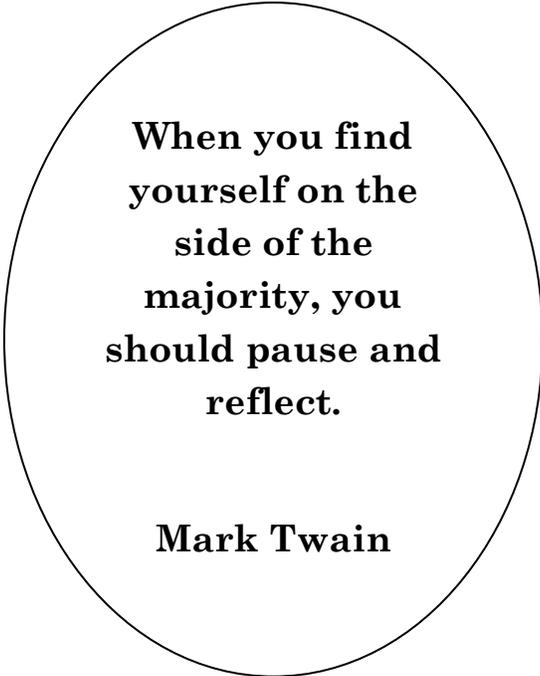
Give every day the chance to become the most beautiful of your life.

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would rather have talked.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.

Don't wait. the time will never be just right.



**When you find  
yourself on the  
side of the  
majority, you  
should pause and  
reflect.**

**Mark Twain**

Thank you all for your support and continued membership in PACMOAA. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the newsletter. Please remember our troops, their family members and all the veterans that have served our country in your thoughts and prayers.

Your Interim Editor,

Sherry Ferki