



The Salute Online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, and surrounding counties, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are 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 and do not participate in political activities.

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OCTOBER 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I hope you and your families are doing well and want to welcome everyone back to a more normal schedule for PACMOAA.

Our September meeting was held via Zoom and I really want to thank the 8 PACMOAA members that attended along with Del. Brewer. It was a pleasure meeting Del. Brewer. She is a small business owner who has spent a lifetime in the Western Tidewater area and currently represents the 64th District in the House of Delegates. Her district includes Isle of Wight County, Prince George County, Surry County and parts of the City of Suffolk. Del. Brewer is on the House Appropriations Committee; the General Laws Committee; and the Communications, Technology, and Innovations committee. She graciously spoke to us about 30 minutes after spending the day in the Special Session of the General Assembly.

The special session was originally scheduled to resolve budget issues related to the economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic but by the time the Special Session convened on 18 August, criminal justice reform was added to the issues to be addressed. Del. Brewer noted that on 10 September, when she spoke to us, 20 days of the 30 day session had elapsed and all bills addressed thus far related to criminal justice reform. Del. Brewer referred to the bills as anti-law enforcement rather than criminal justice reform. She described 3 budget items presented included a 25% cut to state police when they are already 395 people short, getting rid of all school resource officers (SROs) and to cut funding to local police departments by 10%. A question was brought up per were the cuts specific - some were very specific. Another related item that was discussed had to do with buying excess military surplus equipment and non-lethal weapons. Buying military surplus equipment is much cheaper for the local police departments with limited funds than buying brand new equipment.



Del. Brewer sits on the House Appropriations Committee and she discussed some budget issues. Virginia had a \$700 million shortfall last year but bolstered our rainy day fund so there are some funds to fall back on. Last year, Virginia was the #1 state for business. In 2018, Emily was honored as a Pro-Business **Legislator of the Year** by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce for fostering a positive business environment in our Commonwealth. In 2019, she was named as **Legislator of the Year** by the Virginia Treasurer's Association.

School funding was also discussed and most local schools are still virtual. This is the first year that grants are available to localities to get assistance with dead zones.

Suffolk has applied for one of them. \$17 million is available this year.

During her presentation, Del. Brewer mentioned that Hampton Roads should return to phase 3 of reopening shortly and Jeff Westling sent her a link to the announcement that Gov. Northam made that day.

Hal asked about the VA National Guard falling way behind on training due to restrictions with COVID 19 but that they are frequently being deployed overseas. Del. Brewer noted she has a good relationship with Secretary Hopkins of DVS and he is working on that problem. There are 2 issues involved, congregation of larger groups of soldiers and funding! This will be the 3rd year, Del. Brewer holds a mobile Veterans Clinic. In 2019, the Mobile Veterans Resource Center had representatives from DVS (a Town Hall meeting with Sec. Hopkins and

Continued on Page 3

PACMOAA LEADERSHIP

See Online



CHAPTER NEWS

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 03 NOAA Reestablished 1970 (US SURVEY of the COAST Feb 10 1807)
- 08 PACMOAA Dinner Meeting (Actual and Virtual)
- 12 Columbus Day
- 13 U.S. NAVY 345th Birthday 1775
- 13 U. S. NAVY Memorial 32 Anniversary
- 14 CUBAN Missile Crisis 1962
- 23 BEIRUT Barracks Bombed 1983
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 US Invades Grenada 1985

OCTOBER DINNER

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday, October 8th** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk.

Social hour begins at 6 PM, dinner served at 6:30PM.

MENU

- Caesar Salad with Parmesan Cheese and Croutons
- Chicken Marsala Red Roasted Potatoes Broccoli
- Chef's Choice Dessert
- Bottled Ice Tea and Water as well as Coffee

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity). Please make your reservation as early as possible due to limited seating, but no later than **Sunday, October 4th** with Sherry Ferki at 686-4650 or by email at navmed1@cox.net. **NO LATE ADDITIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.

PROGRAM & MEETING

- 6:00 pm **Registration/Social time with social distancing and masks**
- 6:30 - 7:15 pm **Dinner**
- 7:15 – 7:45pm **Program in person and via Zoom**
- 7:45 **Business meeting – Discuss and vote on proposed Bylaw changes**

Speaker – **Fred Schoenfeld, Commodore Theater in Portsmouth**

With only 1 meeting room available, dinner restricted to 20 attendees due to COVID 19 restrictions

Business meeting to discuss and vote on proposed bylaws revisions – see September newsletter for more detailed info per areas to focus on

1. Adding Mission Statement per MOAA suggestion
2. Adding Active Duty non-voting membership category
3. Adding Third Vice President for Communications/Webmaster

OCTOBER PROGRAM



FRED SCHOENFELD, COMMODORE THEATER

Fred, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, attended Maury High School and graduated in 1962. He attended the University of Cincinnati, College of Engineering, graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He went to work upon graduation, in Kansas City, Missouri for Durwood Theatres, which later became American Multi-Cinema Theatres (AMC); as their head of their projection and sound department. As such, he was responsible for their 16 screens located in the Kansas City area as well as the staff of 20 plus projectionists.

In 1969, he returned to the local area and remodeled a closed super market in the Churchland area of Portsmouth into the areas first three screen theatre complex: The Plaza Theatres, which opened in March, 1970. In 1972, he acquired the twin theatre, known as The Movies One & Two, located in Virginia Beach. In 1978, he acquired the theatre complex in York County, known as Cinema City which was a twin indoor complex as well as a 505 car drive-In theatre.

1987 was the year the Commodore Theatre was purchased (after being closed since 1975) and 29 months later, reopened as the areas only classic, first run, dining motion picture theatre.

1990 was the year the Commodore obtained the distinction of becoming a THX certified cinema.

In operation now for over 30 years, the Commodore is known for its excellence in the presentation of motion pictures as well as fine dining in a classic historic theatre. The Commodore was listed, in 1995, as a National Historic landmark by both the Virginia Department of Historic Resources as well as the US Park Service.

Fred has consulted on the restoration of many older theatres throughout the country and is currently working to restore the State Theatre, located in Hertford, North Carolina as a dinner and motion picture theatre.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK continued

Del. Brewer), DMV (to obtain real ID, get the Veteran indicator on a license, or complete most DMV transactions), and EVMS/VCU (blood pressure checks, body measurements, diabetes screening, and healthcare education). I will keep you informed when the next such event is scheduled. The 2019 events were held on 2 different days – one in Smithfield and one in Disputanta.

I want to thank Del. Brewer again for sharing her time and knowledge with us, especially after a busy day in the Special Session of the General Assembly. I also want to thank Cami Castleberry, Del. Brewer's Legislative Aide, for coordinating this program with us!!

As we **"Never Stop Serving"**, please remember our troops currently serving – Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and their families; retirees and their families; and all the veterans and wounded warriors in your thoughts and prayers. Please remember our country also during this very difficult time.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Bob Alexander

James Jones

Joe Barreca

Jack Lyons

Harold Cole

George VanLaethem

UPCOMING FALL & WINTER EVENTS

- 8 October Dinner /Program meeting
- 8 October VCOC Quarterly Meeting to be held virtually at 10 AM
- 12 November PACMOAA Annual Business Meeting (Agenda will be included in November newsletter)
 - Business Meeting
 - Reports from all officers and committees
 - Vote on proposed dues changes
 - Vote on proposed meal cost changes
 - Vote on new officers/board members for 2021 – 2023
 - Will have 2 rooms for meeting so members and spouses can attend
- 19 November PACMOAA Board Meeting
- 10 December PACMOAA Annual Christmas Gala
 - Tidewater Concert Band
 - Hopefully, Toys for Tots
 - Probably scaled down from previous Christmas Galas

NOTES: All in person meetings depend on the current phase Hampton Roads is in, with CDC and state guidelines. We will keep you updated as soon as we know of any changes. As of now, all drinks can only be purchased and consumed at the bar per ABC licensure rules. Tea and water will be available with meals in bottles as will coffee from a no touch machine in a paper cup.

PACMOAA FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

PACMOAA Scholarship 50-50 Raffle Tickets sold at every dinner meeting

- 1 ticket for \$1.00
- 8 tickets for \$5.00. What a Deal!!!

PACMOAA Mug Only \$10.00 each and will be available at all Dinner Meetings! Also available from Sherry Ferki’s home for pickup!



FROM MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

Military Retirees and Families Are Getting an Extension on ID Card Renewals from military.com

21 Sep 2020

Military.com | By [Amy Bushatz](#)

Military dependents and retirees now have through the end of June 2021 to access benefits using ID cards that expired this year, thanks to an extension of temporary ID card rules issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Typically, cards must be applied for, issued and updated in person up to 30 days before the expiration date at one of the more than 1,600 ID card offices on military facilities worldwide. Cards that do not expire, such as those held by retirees over 65, do not need to be renewed.

But in an effort to reduce crowds at ID card facilities during the pandemic, officials in April issued guidance allowing dependents and retirees to continue to use cards that expired this year to access both military bases and benefits through the end of September.

New guidelines issued this month bump that expiration extension into next year. Now, holders of those cards will be able to use them for benefits such as medical care through June 30, 2021, and for base access through March 2021.

Related: [How to renew your military ID](#)

The pandemic allowances put in place a temporary system for remote ID card renewals, updates and reissuances. That system has also been extended indefinitely under the updated Pentagon order. Cards changed remotely will be given an expiration date of one year from the time they are issued, the new guidance states.

The update also extends an age bump for military kids to receive their first ID card. Under normal circumstances, that age is 10. Under the temporary rule, it is 14.

The extension, however, applies only to the cards held by retirees and dependents, known as the Uniformed Services ID (USID). Expired Common Access Cards (CAC) and Volunteer Logical Access Credentials (VoLAC) had previously also been allowed through September. [That change will end Sept. 30 as planned.](#)

-- Amy Bushatz can be reached at amy.bushatz@military.com.

This story was updated to reflect rules for ID cards that do not expire.

Related: [Read more about the COVID-19 ID card rules](#)

Surviving Spouse Corner: Preparing for the Unpredictable

By: Gail Joyce September 25, 2020 from the MOAA website

Many women — and men — are blindsided by the death of a spouse, because couples rarely talk about the inevitable.

When you are at your most vulnerable, you must make choices that will have an enduring impact. Should the body be cremated or preserved? What type of service and where will it be held? Will he or she be buried in a hometown family plot or in a national cemetery many miles away?

To be better prepared for these difficult decisions, take time to have that important conversation with your spouse and your children about death and what happens after death. This conversation is a gift of love that each member of a marriage or family makes to the other.

Resources are available on MOAA.org and other websites that will help you have those conversations and make planning for the unknown perhaps a little easier. Find out who your local veteran service officer is, get to know them before you really need them, and then make sure they are the first on your list to contact.

Ask your chapter to schedule at least one meeting each year where these issues are discussed. MOAA, [the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#), and your surviving spouse liaison can provide members with a wealth of information.

Steps to take:

- Encourage members and spouses to talk to each other about end-of-life issues and ways to prepare.
- Prepare and organize important documents (such as DD Form 214, wills, living will, durable power of attorney, insurance policies, birth/marriage certificates, passwords, insurance policies, bank account and investment information).
- Make sure utilities are in both names.
- Open a credit card account in *your name*.
- Establish eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery.
- Make a list of helpful resources, including [MOAA](#), [the VA](#), [AARP.org](#), [Military OneSource](#), [MOAA Minnesota Chapter "The Day After Calls,"](#) MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), and [MOAA's Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group](#).

As spouse and surviving spouse, it is important you think about yourself and *your* survivors and the things they will need to know. Be prepared!

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)

UPDATE ON STATUS OF FY21 NDAA 28 September 2020

No change from last update. Per MOAA update on website dated 31 July:

The NDAA process is complex, even by legislative standards. Here's the short version:

- The House bill includes two provisions that would halt the planned cuts, thanks in part to your efforts in a successful Virtual Storming the Hill – click [here](#) to read more about them.
- The Senate bill does not include these provisions.
- Now that both bills have been passed by their respective chambers, members of the House and Senate meet in a conference committee to resolve any differences. Your interaction with senators – especially those who are chosen to take part in that committee -- will help ensure the House language remains in the bill.

At this time, the conferees for the conference committee have not been named and there does not seem to be much chance FY21 NDAA will be passed before the election.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Tell Congress to Stop Cuts to Uniformed Services University

By: Kevin Lilley September 22, 2020 from MOAA website

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) provides an essential pipeline of military medical talent, but [like the rest of military medicine](#), it remains a familiar target for cost-cutting proposals.

And while MOAA and its partners in The Military Coalition, a group of military and veterans organizations representing a combined 5.5 million members, [recently asked key legislators](#) to stop a recent round of planned USU cuts via the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), lawmakers need to hear from all corners about the damage such cuts could do.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect the Military Medical Pipeline](#)]

MOAA board member Rear Adm. Tom Jurkowsky, USN (Ret), raised red flags in [a recent commentary for The Hill](#), a Washington, D.C.-based news outlet. He outlined the issues raised by The Military Coalition as well as those of Dr. Thomas J. Nasca, president and CEO for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, who noted “grave concerns” with the planned cuts [in a letter](#) to USU and Defense Health Agency officials.

USU contributes to readiness through both the training of its students to serve as military medical professionals and through the research undertaken to provide a better quality of care for servicemembers and others under the military medical umbrella, Jurkowsky writes. He cites improvements in critical and psychiatric care, rehabilitation programs, and prosthetics as some of the ways this research has paid off.

“The sacrifices of our active military demand these advances,” he writes.

Lend your voice to these calls for action by [asking your lawmakers](#) to provide USU with the funds needed to continue its mission. It’s just one of several ways MOAA continues its work to preserve military medical care in all its forms.

Note: This will be one of the unintended consequences of the proposed cuts of 18,000 Military Medical Personnel if changes are not made to FY21 NDAA!

5 PACMOAA POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOVEMBER BUSINESS ELECTION

Members elected this fall will serve from January 2021 to January 2023.

Please consider becoming a member of the Leadership Team as an elected officer or appointed. PACMOAA needs as many different perspectives as possible to help us represent all our members and their interests!

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

Notes:

Good computer skills are essential to facilitate speedy communication among the Board members.

“Throughout the By-Laws, he is used generically to represent he or she” on intro page to bylaws.

Positions to be filled this November with job description from the Bylaws noted with quotation marks include:

President: "The president shall be the chief elective officer of PACMOAA, shall preside at meetings of PACMOAA, and of the Board of Directors, and shall be a member ex-officio, with the right to vote, of all committees except the nominating committee. He shall also, at the annual meeting and at such other times as he may deem proper, communicate to PACMOAA or to the Board of Directors information or proposals which in his opinion would help in achieving the purposes of PACMOAA. Further, he shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the president."

2nd Vice President: Is a member of Board of Directors and Membership Chair. “In the event of the temporary disability or absence of both the president and the first vice president, the second vice president shall perform the duties of the president.” To serve 2nd Year of two Year Term.

Secretary: "The secretary shall provide timely notification of all meetings of PACMOAA and of the Board of Directors and shall maintain a record of all proceedings. (He shall ensure maintenance of the membership records/list and ensure dues notification goes out in the newsletter - PROPOSED REVISED BYLAWS DELETE THIS SENTENCE) . He shall prepare such correspondence as may be required and shall maintain PACMOAA's correspondence files. He shall safeguard all important records and documents and valuable equipment belonging to PACMOAA. Further, he shall perform such other duties as are commensurate with his office or as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors or the president."

2 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". Also participate in quarterly board meetings and other duties as designated.

Please let us know if you have any questions, if you are interested in becoming more active and / or running for office. Contact Hal Hostetler, COL, USA (Ret) Nominating Committee Chair, Chair, Secretary and Immediate Past President at (757) 483-8943 or halbren@verizon.net.

HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

Flu shots

- NMCP expects flu vaccines to arrive late this year and their recording says to check back in mid-November. Immunization clinic number is 953-2207.
- Response from email to NMCP said they probably won't have vaccine until late November early December.
- Tricare covers the flu vaccine so you can receive it without charge at most local civilian pharmacies.
- **Remember**, if you need the Senior High Dose vaccine, be sure to check with whichever pharmacy you wish to go to ahead of time to make sure they have some in stock!

How to Shop for a FEDVIP Dental and Vision Insurance Program

October 07, 2020 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Can't make the webinar? We will send you a link to the recording after the event. Additionally, the video will be [archived on our website](#) for Premium and Life members.)

The TRICARE and FEDVIP open season is fast approaching, set for **Nov. 9 through Dec. 14**. Are you happy with your current plan? Will you be retiring in the next year and lose your active duty family's TRICARE Dental Plan (TDP)?

The 2021 pricing schedules should be released in early October. Last year, the average dental plan cost increased by 5.6% and the average vision plan cost went up 1.5%, but in some high-cost areas, premiums increased 9.5%. FEDVIP plan holders should check 2021 prices and decide if a plan or provider change is in order.

Join MOAA's financial and benefits experts, Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret), CFP®, and Capt. Paul J. Frost, AFC®, USN (Ret), on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. Eastern for a tutorial on how to use the BENEFEDS Plan Comparison Tool to shop for a dental and/or vision insurance plan that best meets the needs of your family.

Topics covered will include:

- FEDVIP dental and vision providers
- FEDVIP eligibility
- What type of plan (Standard or High) is right for your family?
- Review of the BENEFEDS website
- Demonstration of the BENEFEDS Plan Comparison Tool

[Sign up today](#), and check out [more upcoming MOAA events](#).

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THE GIFT OF HOPE

I will be forever beholden to Ray Kusela of Bremerton, Washington, a man I knew only for a few weeks over fifty years ago. He did me the greatest favor of any man I've ever known...

"So long!" we shouted to our friend Ray as he swung his makeshift backpack over his shoulder.

With a big grin, he answered, "So long, you guys! I just wish I could take all of you with me."

It was a cold, gray day in December 1944 when Ray trudged across the compound of Stalag Luft 4 in northern Poland and out the gate, never to be seen by any of us again.

When Ray's bomber was shot down over Germany the year before, his left arm had been badly wounded. The Germans knew he'd never be able to use his left hand again, and because of that disability, he was being repatriated on a prisoner exchange.

My B-12 had been shot down on November 2, 1944. but back in the States, all my distraught parents knew was that I'd been classified as "missing in action". It wasn't until February 1945 that they were officially notified I was being held prisoner somewhere in Germany. That same month, my mother read in the Los Angeles times that the War Department was sponsoring meetings across the country for relatives of prisoners of war. Ex-POWs talked to these audiences about life and treatment in the prison camps.

There was to be such a meeting in the Los Angeles Shrine auditorium. Mom and Dad could hardly wait.

The following week when the big day arrived, they anxiously took their seats in the big auditorium. Half a dozen soldiers and sailors, all ex-POWs, took seats on the brightly lit stage. One by one, they spoke to the silent audience. Among the speakers was Ray Kusela.

When they finished, the officer in charge announced, "The men will now go down into the audience to look at any photos you brought along. Some of them may be recognized."

When the men came down from the stage, the audience crowded forward, extending photos of their missing sons, husbands and sweethearts.

Dad later told me what happened next:

"Your mother and I had been feeling really bad since we got the telegram that you were missing in action. But those boys up there on that stage gave us hope that everything would turn out all right.

"I watched this one fellow pushing his way through the crowd, looking at pictures - hundreds of them- held out to him. He just shook his head and kept saying, 'No. No. No.'

By the time he made his way to where your mother and I stood, I began to feel dejected again. but I held out your picture and , suddenly that kid's face lit up and with a big grin, he said, "Hey, that's Bill!"

Dad said he had to hold back a sob when he asked, "Is he okay?"

"Yes, he's fine," Ray assured them, relieving them of a burden of worry they had carried since the previous November. Then he pressed his way deeper into the crowd , looking for other familiar faces on the photos clutched tightly in hopeful hands.

Mom and Dad cried on the way home that night, hearing over and over again those wonderful words that filled them with hope," Yes, he's fine."

May we always remember those who went "in harm's way" and kept our country free.

From: *Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul*

Bob Steorts, Chaplain

THAT'S A WRAP FOR OCTOBER!