



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.

VOLUME XXXX Issue I

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JANUARY 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I hope you all had a good Christmas/holiday season and that you were able to enjoy spending time and/or communicating with family and friends. The beautiful Christmas lights and holiday decorations are gone and now it is time to get back into our “normal routine”. Hopefully, 2021 will be a much better year for all of us and our country!

As with many activities in 2020, the annual Christmas social was canceled but the Tidewater Concert Band performed a Christmas concert for PACMOAA at Calvary Baptist Church that was shared via Zoom with our members. Hal performed his usual animated version of “The Night Before Christmas”. Hal and Brenda Hostetler performed with the band, Bill Smith did the camera work for the Zoom concert with

his wife Karen monitoring the laptop, and five other PACMOAA members attended the performance in person with 5 members joining by Zoom. Many thanks to Hal for coordinating and performing in this special concert and to Bill for walking around with his iPhone attached to a tripod to give more of an in person experience.

PACMOAA members contributed about half a box of gifts for Toys for Tots. Lt Col Pratt (the Senior Instructor for the Churchland High School Marine Corps JROTC) was very appreciative of our contributions especially with the unusual circumstances in 2020. He collected the toys and attended the concert. As for all of us, 2020 was a very challenging year for the JROTC with many activities canceled. Lt Col Pratt will keep us updated on any activities the MCJROTC are involved in and if PACMOAA can be of any assistance.

Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless (PVH) needs donations even more than in the past but this is more difficult when we don't meet in person. As I described in the December Salute, donations of needed items can be dropped off at the shelter 7 days a week from 7 am to 6 pm, you can mail a check, and/or order items via Amazon Smile to be delivered to the facility.

It's hard for me to put into words how much I appreciate the PACMOAA membership and Leadership Team and all their hard work and flexibility in 2020. As an organization, PACMOAA faced unprecedented obstacles as we all have in 2020. In spite of the unusual circumstances, PACMOAA persevered and learned new ways to function while still accomplishing many of it's normal activities. See a detailed list of PACMOAA events/activities later in newsletter. CDR Ken App, even though not officially a board member in 2020, was very active throughout the year. Some of his activities included setting up the Facebook page, taking over the website management and newsletter distribution, editing the newsletter as of September, participating in board meetings, providing suggestions per improving membership renewals and revising the bylaws with MAJ Ferki!! I want to thank the Leadership Team members whose terms have expired. CWO2 Doug Weller, USCG (Ret) and COL Ben Barnard, USAF (Ret) ended their terms as Board of Directors members and their time and participation were greatly appreciated. Even though Ben lost his lovely wife Gayle in October of 2019, he remained an active member of our Leadership Team until recently when he relocated to NC to be closer to his children. (Continued on page 3)

PACMOAA LEADERSHIP

SEE PACMOAA TODAY WEB
PAGE

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 01 New Years Day
- 04 [USPHS 132st Birthday Commissioned Corps \(1889\)](#)
- 12 First Quarter VCOC Virtual Meeting
- 14 PACMOAA Officer Installation Meeting (Speaker see below)
- 16 Persian Gulf War Begins 1991
- 18 M.L. King Jr. Day
- 21 PACMOAA Virtual Board Meeting
- 28 [USCG 106th Birthday.\(1915\)](#)
- 29 Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)

JANUARY 14, 2021 VIRTUAL INSTALLION



CDR Smith is from New England, growing up in the greater Boston area. He graduated from Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, BA in Government. Post graduate studies include an MA, Public Relations and Journalism, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, National Security Studies, United States Naval War College, Newport Rhode Island, and Regent

University, MA, Government, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Most recently, he studied Executive Facilitation, Georgetown University, DC. He is a retired Navy Public Affairs Officer. From 1981-1994, he served as a Surface Line Officer in the United States Navy on both ships and ashore, to include service with International Peace-keeping Forces Lebanon, Operation Desert Storm, and on the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) and USS Miller (FF 1091). He became a Navy Public Affairs Officer (PAO) in 1995, after serving as the Naval Base Public Affairs Officer at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during Operation Sea Signal. He hosted the radio show "Good Evening GTMO." In 1996, he became the final Public Affairs Officer on the USS America (CV 66), also returning to the USS Kennedy in 1996, this time as ship's PAO. He moved on to be a PAO at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Naval Sea Systems Command, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Supreme Allied Command Atlantic NATO (SACLANT), where he was stationed during Operation Enduring Freedom. His Broadcasting Career began during my undergraduate years, when he was news director for Connecticut College WCNI-FM. He was an intern at WHDH-AM, Boston and WNLC-AM, New London, Connecticut. He worked as a morning news co-anchor at WKOX-AM, Framingham, Massachusetts. While in graduate school, he was weekend editor at Ohio State University National Public Radio Affiliate, WOSU-AM/FM. He currently hosts his interview show, LincInterviews, now heard by an international audience in 10 countries, to include the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific. He also hosts podcasts for the Update-1 Program at the National Press Club, Washington,



D.C. He periodically serves as co-host on the Nora Firestone Show, WKQA Freedom 1110 AM, Norfolk, Virginia. He works in voice over recording and as master of ceremonies for charitable, veteran and community related events. Amidst his broadcasting career, he advocates for Veterans with the Military Officers Association of America, two positions: Vice President, Virginia Council of Chapters, and Legislative Committee Chair, Hampton Roads Virginia Chapter. Along with his Navy career of 25 years as both a Surface Line and Public Affairs Officer, his passion remains interviewing and broadcast journalism.

CDR Linc Smith will give an overview of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOG) and it's website. He is currently serving as the 1st Vice President for VCOG.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

**Ben Barnard Alice Fticsar Sherry Miller Ron Segerstrom Mary Synder Rick Titi
Stephen Watkins Jeff Westling Van White**

Continued from Page 1 FROM THE PRESIDENTS's DESK LCDR Dolly Cherrington, USN (Ret) will be stepping down as 2nd VP/Membership chair. She has been on the Leadership Team since 2003, serving as Treasurer from 2003 -2009, Personal Affairs Chair from 2010 – 2015 and 2nd VP/membership Chair from 2010 – 2020. She will continue to serve as the PACMOAA VCOG Representative. COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret) will step down as Secretary and begin a one year term on the BOD to replace COL Bill Smith, our new President. Hal served as Secretary for 10 years, 9 of those years were with me as President, and he also served 2 years as President. In addition, I would like to send a special thank you to both of our newest board members - CAPT Jeff Westling, USCG (Ret) for all of his great input as well as assistance in the implementation of an online payment system for PACMOAA dues/dinners/etc.; and COL Bill Smith, USA (Ret) for his technical skills with organizing and hosting all of our Zoom meetings this year!! Many thanks to all of you for making my time as President more productive!!

PACMOAA is a small chapter but accomplishes more than some of the larger chapters in the state and I am excited to start a new year with so many new members on our Leadership Team! It has been my pleasure to serve on the Leadership Team for the past 18 years with many dedicated PACMOAA members, many of whom still provide guidance and assistance for myself and the board. The MOAA phrase “**Never Stop Serving**” truly applies to many of our PACMOAA members. A special thanks to Brenda Hostetler, Gladys Steorts and Bruce Ferki who have served as “unofficial Leadership Team members/board members” for many years!! I will assist the incoming President and board members as much as I can while continuing to serve on the Leadership Team as the Immediate Past President, 2nd VP/Membership Chair, Personal Affairs chair, Acting Surviving Spouse Liaison and Scholarship Committee Co-Chair.

There are many challenges facing PACMOAA, MOAA, the military community, and the Nation in the coming year while we are still dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic and political changes. CWO3 Karl Wilson, USA (Ret.) has been diligent about getting info out about legislation pending in Congress and for Virginia with the assistance of COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret) and myself. Please read the MOAA updates and emails Karl, Hal, and/or I send out and respond to them if you can. We all know the challenges facing our country but the solution should not be primarily taken from the military community. We need to let our elected representatives know what our positions are and contact them regularly. See more detailed information later in the newsletter. 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 tumultuous time.

NOTE: January meeting will include business meeting to vote on 3 items continued from November Business Meeting as well as the Induction of New Leadership Team members and a short program.

WELCOME TO NEW PACMOAA LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS 2021

President: COL William Smith, USA (Ret) – Bill

2nd Vice President: MAJ Sherry D. Ferki, USA (Ret)

3rd Vice President: CDR Kenneth G. App USN (Ret) – Ken

Secretary: LCDR Paul R. Lucas USN (Ret)

Immediate Past President: MAJ Sherry D. Ferki, USA (Ret)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Through December 2021

COL Harold R. Hostetler, Jr., USA (Ret) – Hal

Through December 2022

CAPT Robert Brewer, USN, (Ret) – Bob

CAPT Roger Hirsh, USN (Ret)

BUSINESS MEETING

Business Issues to be discussed and voted on January 14, 2021

These items were detailed in the November 2020 newsletter but were not voted on at the 12 November Annual Business Meeting due to poor attendance. They need to be voted on at the January meeting in order to implement new dues structure for 2021 dues. A ballot for the following items is on page 13, which may be printed and mailed, or emailed back to the Salute Editor.

- **New dues structure** – see document below in newsletter.
- **Proposal to increase dinner cost at Hilton Garden Inn** - increase regular monthly meals to \$35.00, June Scholarship dinner to \$40.00 (up to 6 guests with winners / families + 4 or 5 JROTC Color Guard cadets), and Christmas dinner (meal a little more expensive, 2 rooms & TCB) to \$45.00

PACMOAA has consistently lost about \$100 per dinner meeting over the past 1 ½ years per dinner analysis by Treasurer, Hans Sachse (see Sept 2020 newsletter, page 11) and that will increase even more now due to social distancing.

NOTE: Above data is based on expenses before changes with COVID 19!! Upon checking with the Hilton in March 2020, it was noted that the ancillary fees PACMOAA has been paying for several years have been consistently less than usually charged. The normal room cost is \$350/room versus the \$100/room we are charged. The usual bartender fee is \$100 and the screen fee is \$75. Before the social distancing restrictions, we were not paying a bartender fee or screen fee!!

- **Proposed amendment to current bylaws**
 - *Current bylaws:*

ARTICLE IX - OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The elected officers shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a third vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer, each of whom shall be a regular or surviving spouse member of PACMOAA and MOAA.

- Suggested change:

SECTION 1. The elected officers shall be a president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, secretary, and treasurer, each of whom shall be a member of the chapter **or the spouse of a chapter member.**

MOAA actually suggested this change to the guidelines for chapter bylaws in 2015. Per discussion MAJ Ferki had with MOAA personnel several times, some chapters could not find officers so they asked if spouses of members could serve. The spouses are not eligible to be MOAA members and can only vote in the chapter while in office. For example: Karen Smith or Donna App would be eligible to run for office next year if this proposed changes to the bylaws is approved.

Proposal for Amended Annual Dues

The following changes are recommended to the 2021 Membership Dues. These changes, if implemented would go into effect for the 2021 Membership Year.

Membership Category	1 Year	15%	20%
		Discount	Discount
			<u>Best Value</u>
Retired/Active/Vet Regular (Voting Member)	\$25.00	\$42.50	\$60.00
Surviving Spouse (Voting Member)	\$20.00	\$34.00	\$48.00
Active Duty (Non-Voting Member)	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$12.00

Rational for 3 Year Dues Payment: Since we often have a difficult time having members renew membership in a timely manner, add a two and three year paid option. It would also be cheaper for Members. Propose having a 15% discount for two years of the annual dues, and 20% discount for three years of the Annual Dues. The advantage is that members save money, will not have to renew every year, and hopefully view multi-year membership as a bargain they can't pass up. MOAA and the Hampton Roads Chapter have 1, 2, & 3 year memberships too.

Add an Active Duty Membership Category (Non-Voting Member), with Dues at \$5/year. This would incentivize Active Duty Membership. Similar in nature to MOAA BASIC Membership, they would only receive the Email PACMOAA Newsletter, can attend Dinner Meetings, July Breakfast/Brunch, and all other PACMOAA Activities. We also get funds from National MOAA for basic members.



The following are from the Tidewater Concert Band Christmas Concert, both Live and via Zoom on December 10, 2020. At left: Gladys and Bob Steorts.



From top Left Clockwise: Hal & Shirley Barker, Band Director & Sherry Ferki, Hal & Brenda Hostettler, LTC Paul Pratt.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND RENEWAL REMINDER

You can pay your dues by mail or online at this time: PACMOAA, P.O. Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703. Your dues money enables PACMOAA to pay for things like the newsletter; speaker expenses; VCOC dues and expenses; admin expenses like name tags, printing, postage and entertainment like the Tidewater Concert band that performed at our Christmas Concert.

Maintaining and/or increasing membership is essential for a chapter to survive and thrive. The PACMOAA Goals in order are Membership, Legislative, and Community Activities. Without adequate membership, legislative advocacy and community involvement are severely impacted!

PACMOAA had 72 paid members as of 30 December with several potential new members. This included 6 life members, 1 honorary Life Member, and 10 new members. PACMOAA ended 2019 with 71 members. This is only the second time in 30 years (the only other time was in 2017) that PACMOAA has ended up more members than the previous year!!! That is amazing considering how tumultuous 2020 was. MOAA membership tracking listed PACMOA with 11 new members for 2020 – one of our new members from February was not eligible for membership as a Surviving Spouse as his spouse had been senior enlisted. MOAA enrolled him as a Life MOAA member and the error was not caught for some time.

As noted in the last newsletter, with the rollback of restrictions in Virginia on 13 November, the Board of Directors decided to have virtual meetings for January and March but we still need to invite friends to join PACMOAA. Starting in January, PACMOAA will be able to accept dues payments, dinner payments, etc. online. This should make paying your dues easier in 2020. Hopefully, this will make it easier for new members to join also!!

Guidelines for Paying PACMOAA Dues Online January 2021

Note: Members will be voting at the 14 January meeting on the potential for paying for 1 -3 years of dues at a time. Many members also include donations for the PACMOAA scholarship with their dues payment.

Members need to create and/or login to their PayPal account.

From the Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter “friend”. Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says “name, @username, email, or mobile” and click “next”. Enter the amount to transmit and add “For PACMOAA Dues” in the note section and click “continue”. Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press “Send payment now” when everything looks correct.

LEGISLATIVE

MOAA’s 2021 Legislative Priorities – adapted from MOAA website

December 29, 2020 By [MOAA Government Relations Staff](#)

A version of this article originally appeared in the January 2021 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members. Learn more about the magazine [here](#); learn more about joining MOAA [here](#).)

Here are MOAA’s priorities for advocacy as the 117th Congress begins its work. Our focus remains on all eight of the uniformed services and their service-earned entitlements. As protecting health care and service-

earned benefits continues to be a challenge, MOAA will press forward in engaging Congress to shape outcomes in these vital areas.

There are steep hills before us. Our nation has a rising debt of more than \$27 trillion, and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion. In view of this, MOAA anticipates robust attempts to control federal budgets, reduce or eliminate unprogrammed expenditures, and reduce entitlements.

MOAA needs you to be at the ready to reach out to your legislators, and keep that engagement going as needed to make sure your voice is heard.

Our priorities may be updated, as warranted, during the next two years this Congress is in session. Together, we can succeed.

Click one of the links below to go directly to each objective.

- [Recognize the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the Landscape for Many of Our Priorities](#)
- [Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit](#)
- [Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays](#)
- [Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges](#)
- [Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement Pay and VA Disability Pay](#)
- [Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services \(Housing, PCS, Child Care\) Are Affordable, Readily Available, and Meet Quality Standards](#)
- [Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures](#)
- [Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent With Their Active Duty Counterparts](#)
- [Sustain Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Foundational Missions and Services](#)
- [Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an Option for Those Currently Eligible to Receive Full Military Honors, Through Expansion of Our National Cemetery](#)
- [Sustain Pay Raises for Servicemembers and COLA Raises for Retirees](#)
- [Improve Survivor Benefits](#)
- [Ensure the Coast Guard Receives Pay During a Government Shutdown](#)

FY 2021 NDAA Becomes Law After Veto Override

By: Kevin Lilley, January 01, 2021

The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) cleared its final hurdle in the closing hours of the 116th Congress, with an 81-13 vote in the Senate on Jan. 1 completing the veto-override process. The House voted to override the veto 322-87 on Dec. 28.

The passage maintains a streak of annual NDAA passage that dates to 1961. More importantly, it means a series of improvements to pay and benefits for servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and military families.

“While the last few steps of the process made the headlines, we can’t forget the work done months ago by our members nationwide in pushing their elected officials to include critical reforms in this annual legislation,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret). “From protecting the health care benefits of retirees and those in uniform to securing long-deserved coverage for tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans

to a host of other meaningful changes, this NDAA is a reflection of the efforts of many MOAA members and so many others throughout the year.”

The enrolled legislation ([PDF version](#)) runs nearly 1,500 pages. MOAA [previously outlined its contents](#) and will be following up in the coming weeks with greater detail on the MOAA-supported measures it contains, to include:

A 3% military pay raise, in line with the administration’s request and with the Employment Cost Index (ECI), as well as a raise in Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) from \$250 to \$275 per month and expanded HDIP parity between those in the active and reserve components.

- A halt to military medical billet cuts and plans to reorganize (and reduce retiree access to) dozens of military treatment facilities (MTFs) for 180 days after the bill’s passage. DoD must submit additional reporting and/or assurances to Congress before taking either action.
- The addition of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the [list of conditions linked to Agent Orange exposure](#). Well-earned benefits will be available to 34,000 Vietnam veterans.
- A range of good news for military families, including greater access to child care, better spouse employment programs, expanded military housing protections, and long-sought improvements to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and TRICARE’s Extended Health Care Option (ECHO).

The legislation does not include new TRICARE fees or copay increases; the TRICARE Select Group A enrollment fee, which took effect Jan. 1, was part of the FY 2017 NDAA.

MOAA already has begun its work with the 117th Congress to expand and improve upon this legislation in the coming months. Keep track of ongoing efforts via [MOAA’s Advocacy News page](#), and check out [MOAA’s legislative priorities for the new year](#)

COMMUNITY

PACMOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

January 2021

Since 2001, when I took over the chairmanship of the Scholarship committee, PACMOAA has awarded 1-3 scholarships each year, ranging from \$1000.00 to \$2000.00. Six students had to drop out of school for a variety of reasons over the past 19 years. The scholarship is awarded over the first two semesters in school and is contingent upon continued enrollment in an ROTC type program. The scholarship money may be used for tuition purposes and/or other school related expenses as well as room and board. Unlike the MOAA scholarships, the students do not have to come from a military family.

Information pertaining to this scholarship is emailed to local high schools in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Franklin, Chesapeake, Southampton and Isle of Wight. It is also sent to the 13 local JROTC groups in our area and many of our past awardees have been JROTC cadets. CDR Scott Dickinson, USN (Ret) joined the Scholarship Committee in 2016 and the next year implemented an online application and review process that greatly improved our system. He has been the Committee Co-Chair since 2017.

The number of scholarships to be awarded for the year will be voted on at the April Board Meeting and is based on donations from PACMOAA members.

College expenses are increasing as are all other expenses. Most families have fewer resources this year than in past years. Please consider donating some money to help these students out in their quest for a career in the

military. This can easily be done by adding \$10.00 or \$20.00 or more to your dues check or adding \$5.00 or more to your dinner check, once we are able to have dinner meetings again. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be most helpful!

Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

COVID-19 Vaccine Distributed in Phases to TRICARE Members per NMCP website on 1 Jan 2021 Dec. 23, 2020

The COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available for you and your family. The Department of Defense (DOD), in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will provide COVID-19 vaccines in phases.

“As the vaccine becomes more widely available in the coming weeks, we strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated,” said Defense Health Agency Director Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Ronald J. Place. “The vaccine is safe, effective, and a critical addition to current public health measures. It helps us protect our health, our families, our communities, and significantly decrease the public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.”

As this critical response begins, you may have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as when and how you can get it.

Who is getting the vaccine first?

The first supply of the vaccine is limited. The DOD is prioritizing distributing vaccines to those providing direct medical care, maintaining essential installation functions, deploying forces, and those who are at the highest risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19. Once the initial phases of the vaccine distribution are complete, the vaccines will become available for other beneficiaries under the phased approach.

Where can you get the vaccine when offered?

During the limited distribution phase, the vaccine is only available at certain locations throughout the U.S. and overseas. (NOTE: NMCP is one of those sites). Once the initial phases of the vaccine distribution are completed, the vaccines will be more broadly available.

You'll eventually be able to get the vaccine at:

- Your local [military hospital or clinic](#).
- Your civilian provider.
- [TRICARE network pharmacies](#).

TRICARE is working to ensure you have no out-of-pocket costs.

Why should you get the vaccine?

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Getting the vaccine will lower your risk of contracting COVID-19 and may help keep you from getting seriously ill if you do get the virus. Getting vaccinated also protects the health of the people around you—especially those who are at [increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#).

What can you do now?

Remember it's still important for you to follow COVID-19 safety procedures to help slow the spread of the virus. You should continue to [practice healthy habits](#). These habits include wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing, restricting your movement, and washing your hands.

You can learn more about the [COVID-19 vaccine efforts](#). Also, [sign up for email alerts](#) for more COVID-19 vaccine news as it becomes available.

Sign up for [email alerts](#), and keep up with [TRICARE and COVID-19 updates](#).

Events/Activities PACMOAA members participated in 2020.

- 6 program meetings (2 via ZOOM) versus 8 normally, Annual Business Meeting and Christmas Concert (both in person and via Zoom) for a total of 8 meetings.
- 1 to 3 PACMOAA Leadership members attended VCOC meetings (3 via ZOOM).
- Several members very involved with MOAA Storming in the spring and in the Summer Storming, both focusing on changes in military health care system and cutting 18,000 medical billets.
- BOD met 6 times this year (once in person and 5 via ZOOM). Normally 4 BOD meetings per year.
- Published 11 newsletters for 2020 – usually 10 newsletters/year.
- Ken App set up PACMOAA Facebook page for members.
- Hal Hostetler attended Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee meetings – several canceled due to COVID
- Only 1 local HS had an award ceremony via ZOOM that MAJ Ferki attended – Churchland High School MCJROTC awards.
- Awarded 2 scholarships and winners recognized/honored at Zoom meeting held in July with a speaker.
- Many community activity events canceled like Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade.
- Annual summer brunch usually held with VIPMOAA and HRCMOAA canceled.
- Small Veteran's Day Ceremony in Portsmouth attended by 2 PACMOAA members.
- Donations to Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless (PVH) decreased as only 4 in person meetings but some members donating via Amazon Smile or dropping off at PVH.
- Members donated to Toys for Tots.
- PACMOAA recognized with 10th consecutive 5-Star Level of Excellence Award by MOAA.
- COL Gordon Nelson, USA (Ret) recognized with MOAA Outstanding Service Award.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: There's a Facebook Group for That!

By: Nancy Mullen, November 30, 2020

Are you wondering where to go to get information about issues affecting surviving spouses and families? Are you looking for a supportive, nonjudgmental group to assist you in learning and keeping up to date on benefits and legislation impacting our surviving families? Need a pick-me-up or to connect with others who share similar interests as you? Join the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page](#)!

Who can join? We have recently expanded our membership to include not only surviving spouses but also our families, military spouses, council and chapter surviving spouse liaisons, advocates, and others with an interest in issues that impact the survivor community, regardless of MOAA membership. Particularly in these times of COVID-19 restrictions, we all need a way to connect with others whom which we have common interests.

Is this a public or private group? This is a private group, and there are no fees or dues. You are required to answer a couple of brief questions and be approved by the administrators of the group to join. These questions are designed to ensure we provide a safe place to share information and connect with other like-minded people as well as protect the group from those who do not have a legitimate interest in our issues.

The group's rules are simple, and members may be removed at the discretion of the administrators. Here are a few of the do's and don'ts to remember:

- Do be kind and courteous; remember the Golden Rule and treat everyone with respect.
- Don't attack someone else just because you disagree with them. We can disagree with one another but keep it respectful. Hate speech and bullying will not be tolerated and such comments will be removed.
- Do respect the privacy of the group. Comments made within this group are not to be shared outside of the group. Some of the discussions can be sensitive and private in nature, and it is important that we can trust each other. Files may also not be shared without the approval of the administrators. Posts within the page cannot be seen by the Facebook "friends" of others in the group, unless they are members of the group themselves.
- Don't post sensitive information, such as your phone number, address, social security number, or bank account information. If you need advice that requires you to share this type of information, please privately contact the administrators for assistance.
- Do remember that "tone" is sometimes difficult to determine online. Stop and think before reacting negatively as you may have misinterpreted a comment or response. Remember that many of us are grieving, so please give a little grace.
- Don't post about politics or political events. This page is apolitical and will not be used to promote any candidate or political party.
- Do feel free to contribute material to the site, provided it does not violate group rules. If you are unsure, please reach out to one of the Facebook group administrators.
- Don't sell products or advertise your business. This is also not a dating site.

If you are a member of the group, you might have noticed more activity recently and even posts that are not benefit or surviving family specific. We intend this page to be not only an efficient way to disseminate information on benefits, proposed legislation, advocacy efforts, etcetera, but also a way for all of us to connect and uplift one another. Feel free to share an encouraging or funny meme and pictures of your loved ones and pets and post comments supporting each other.

Our group is expanding, and we would be happy to welcome more members. We would love to get to know each of you, and look forward to your comments on our page.

[Read past *Surviving Spouse Corners*.](#)

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!!! MAY 2021 BRING RELIEF FROM THIS PANDEMIC!!!

THAT'S A WRAP FOR JANUARY 2021

VOTING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR BYLAWS AND OTHER ISSUES AT THE 14 JANUARY 2021 PACMOAA MEETING

If you are unable to attend the 14 January Zoom program meeting to participate in the discussion and vote on proposed bylaw changes and other issues, please vote and return this by 13 January to:

**PACMOAA,
PO Box 5353**

Portsmouth, VA 23703 in self-addressed envelope or email to thesalute1@gmail.com

I agree with the proposed dues structure change

I do not agree with the proposed dues structure change:
Please describe your concerns:

I agree with the proposed dinner cost increase

I do not agree with the proposed dinner cost increase:
Please describe your concerns:

I agree with the proposed amendment to the current bylaws

I do not agree with the proposed amendment to the current bylaws.
Please describe you concerns:
