



# The Salute Express



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 II

LEARN MORE AT [PACMOAA.ORG](http://PACMOAA.ORG)

FEBRUARY 2021

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I hope this finds you healthy and well! I am your new President, and I am happy to have this opportunity to serve you, PACMOAA and our Community.

On January 14, 2021 we had our Installation of Officers during our monthly meeting. As we welcome our new leadership team, we need to thank some who have changed positions or are no longer serving on the team. Departing, are Board members COL Ben Barnard and CWO2 D.E. Weller; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, LCDR Dolly Cherrington. Thank you for so ably serving PACMOAA.

Two other members of the Leadership Team deserve special recognition.

**COL Hal Hostettler** is moving from Secretary to Board member. Hal has served as secretary or president of PACMOAA for many years. His service, commitment and dedication have greatly impacted PACMOAA. Hal has made contributions in the areas of membership, VCOC, programs and policy, to name just a few. Thank you, Hal, for all you have done, and we look forward to your continuing service.

**MAJ Sherry Ferki** is moving from the position of President to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Membership). There is no way I can adequately state the lasting impact Sherry has had on PACMOAA. Serving as President for most of PACMOAA's existence, she has ably led us through good times and bad, to be the organization we are today. I, personally, have never seen anyone with greater passion for serving our veterans, our community and PACMOAA. I will benefit greatly from her knowledge and experience and am thankful Sherry will continue to serve.

2020 was an extremely challenging year. 2021 is an unknown but will certainly present many challenges and, likewise, many opportunities. Your Leadership Team is looking at ways to improve our organization across the board. Where will we go as an organization? How long before we can meet in-person again? How can we be more involved in our community, how can we increase the involvement of our members in our activities, programs, and functions? Who can we partner with in new veteran/community activities? How can we actively recruit new members? What types of programs will be of interest to our members? At this stage, we have lots of questions, many ideas, and a strong desire to move forward. To that end, I welcome your input/comments/suggestions/etc. Feel free to contact me at [wmsmith6487@gmail.com](mailto:wmsmith6487@gmail.com) or 252-333-0871.

I am relatively new to PACMOAA and have a lot to learn. Regrettably, COVID-19 made it difficult for me to meet many of you. I sincerely hope in 2021, I will get to know you as we regain some sense of normalcy in our lives.

Bill Smith  
COL USA (Ret)

PACMOAA LEADERSHIP

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**Immed. Past President**

MAJ Sherry Ferki

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CAPT J. Westling, USCG (Ret)

746-6064

COL H. Hostetler USA (Ret)

686-4650

CAPT Bob Brewer

484-9486

CAPT Roger Hirsch

274-5245

**COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS**

**Chaplain 465-8469**

Lt Col RA Steorts USAF (Ret)

**Arrangements 686-4650**

MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

**Personal Affairs**

MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

**Budget/Finance 686-4766**

CDR Hans Sachse, USN (Ret)

**VCOG Rep. 686-4766**

LCDR Cherrington USN (Ret)

**Legislative Rep. 673-2766**

CWO 3 Karl Wilson, USA (Ret)

**Scholarship**

MAJ S. Ferki, USA (Ret)

CDR S. Dickinson, USN (Ret)

**Co-chairs above**

LCDR Lynn Terry, USN (Ret)

**Hospitality Co-Chairs**

LTC S. Barker, USAR (Ret)

Lt Col R Steorts, USAF (Ret)

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

**Historian**

Lt Col R Steorts, USAF (Ret)



CHAPTER NEWS

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

01-25 Mardi Gras

02 Army Nurse Corps Established 1901

02 Ground Hog Day

04 USO Birthday (1941)

07 Super Bowl LV (55)

14 National Salute to Veteran Patients Week of February 14

14 Valentine's Day

15 Presidents' Day third Monday in February

19 US Coast Guard Reserve Birthday (1941)

23 MOAA Birthday (1929)

27 Battle of The Java Sea 1942

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Barker

Traci Greene

Sherry Miller

Bob Parker

James Rodney

Lynn Terry

Jamie Wise

**There will be NO PROGRAM or Virtual Meeting for FEBRUARY**

**THE MARCH MEETING WILL BE VIRUTAL**

Speaker – Will be our own **CAPT Bob Brewer**

His Presentation will be on the USNS Mercy, it's construction and First Humanitarian Deployment.

**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.**

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME BACK

PACMOAA wishes a hearty welcome back to Surviving Spouse **Bettye Hussey** from Rockingham, VA. She was on the Board of Directors (Jan 2016-Dec 2017) and our Surviving Spouse Liaison (2017).

Additionally, as we go to Press, Welcome Aboard to another New Member LTC **James Rodney**, USA (Ret).

PACMOAA fiscal year began on 1 January. Please resubmit a membership form with any changes in your personnel profile with your dues. We are particularly interested in changes of email, phone numbers, and street addresses.

The new PACMOAA dues fees were approved at the 14 January meeting so you can pay via mail or online by PayPal and pay for 1 – 3 years. See renewal form on page 12 of the newsletter with new prices showing a discount when 2 or 3 years are paid at a time.

**Your membership is important!** Local chapters are critically important to the ultimate success of MOAA. Membership and dues are critical to chapter survival. There is power in numbers. As a chapter member you enjoy the camaraderie and

community of meeting with other local members who share the exceptional experience of military service and financially support the chapter. You become something larger than a lone voice by lending necessary strength in numbers to effectively support the greater good. Another important component of PACMOAA membership is legislative involvement. Part of your dues pays membership in the Virginia Council of Chapters representing you in Richmond via the Joint Legislative Council, which advises the State Legislature on all matters concerning military personnel and their families in Virginia.

As a member, you receive information focused on issues from the websites and publications from MOAA and PACMOAA. Our website is **PACMOAA TODAY**. Our newsletter is published in three forms: *The Salute* by mail, *The Salute express* by email, and *The Salute online*. We also have a **Facebook** page, **PACMOAA**. Please help us protect the benefits earned by veterans, retirees, reservists, National Guard and active duty military, as well as their spouses and dependents by continuing your membership and **convincing others that it is in their best interest to join**.

**REMINDER: PACMOAA still plans on awarding 2 scholarships this spring and we need your donations! Many people include extra funds with their dues renewal or you can donate money separately either by mail or online.**

**RECAP OF THE JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup> BUSINESS & INSTALLATION MEETING**

All issues discussed and voted on at PACMOAA 14 January 2021 Meeting were passed.

- **New dues structure**

Discount	15%	20%	
Membership Category	1 Year	2 Year	
		<u>Best Value</u>	
	3Year		
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

- **Dinner cost at Hilton Garden Inn**

- Regular monthly meals \$35.00
- June Scholarship Dinner \$40.00
- Christmas Gala Dinner \$45.00

- **Bylaws change**

**ARTICLE IX - OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**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.

Submitted by Sherry D. Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)  
 President at time of vote



Above is the January 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom Installation of New Officers by CDR Linc Smith, of VCOC. He also gave a presentation about VCOC, including shared screen VCOC information. “Linc, a Hearty BZ (Well done for other than Navy types) for your Greatly Appreciated Installation of PACMOAA Officers, and VCOC Program.”

## FROM MOAA & 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, or scroll down for the full list.

- [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](#)

## **The Latest on the SBP-DIC Offset Elimination**

By: Shane Ostrom December 02, 2020

The elimination of the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset from the Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) payments is still a bit confusing for many. Let's try to clear the air.

SBP is a survivor annuity administered by DoD. DIC is a survivor annuity administered by the VA. Receiving both payments simultaneously has been considered double dipping (two government payments for the same event), and so the DIC amount has been subtracted from the SBP to prevent double dipping.

The FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included MOAA-supported language that eliminated this offset, a change that will be phased in through 2023. The bill marked the [successful conclusion of a long advocacy process](#), but MOAA remains engaged to assist members through its implementation.

### **The Details**

This offset elimination only affects survivors who are eligible to receive both SBP and DIC payments. The offset is where the DIC amount is subtracted from the SBP amount. The DIC has and will continue to be paid in full; it's the SBP amount that's been reduced by the amount of DIC paid.

**[RELATED: [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Corner](#)]**

For some survivors, the DIC amount subtracted from your SBP left you with no SBP payment, as the DIC amount was greater than your SBP amount. You still have SBP eligibility, you just don't receive your SBP.

Survivors who received an SBP premium refund in the past because you were denied your full SBP amount due to the offset do not have to pay back the refund.

Whether you received no SBP or a partial SBP amount due to the offset, all with the offset received the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) payment. SSIA is a payment to minimize the damage done to your SBP amount by the DIC offset.

**[RELATED: [More Surviving Spouse Resources](#)]**

Survivors with both SBP and DIC will receive a letter from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS, the administrator of SBP) in December explaining how the first phase of the offset elimination (2021) will affect you. The letter will provide you with your payment amounts so you can see the benefit of the first offset elimination actions starting with your Feb. 1, 2021, payment. The offset elimination phase-out continues in 2022, and the offset ends in 2023.

**The bottom line:** The DIC offset amount in your SBP will decrease, thereby allowing you to collect more of your SBP amount. Plus, you will continue to receive SSIA.

**[FROM MOAA'S PRESIDENT: [Making Repeal a Reality](#)]**

The SSIA payment will continue until 2023, when it will be discontinued because all SBP and DIC survivors will be receiving their SBP and DIC amounts in full.

Read more about the process [on the DFAS website](#).

**MOAA in Action: Major Legislative Accomplishments from moaa.org as of 23 Jan 2021**

MOAA engages with Congress on all manner of issues related to the uniformed services community. These efforts can include collaboration with other like-minded organizations and with The Military Coalition. We also rely heavily on our members who make their voices heard by contacting lawmakers via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#), by participating in our annual Storming the Hill advocacy event, and through local efforts at the [chapter and council level](#).

For [more than 90 years](#), this work has led to real results – pay and benefits protected from budget-driven threats, continued access to quality medical care, and countless other areas of concern to our members, our military, and the wider uniformed services community.

No list could encompass everything MOAA's achieved since 1929, but below, you'll find some of the highlights. Click the links for details on each of the items (or scroll below the boxes to see the full list), and reach out to MOAA's legislative team at [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org) to discuss your concerns on these or other topics.

Note: Items with an asterisk (\*) are reoccurringly under attack or underresourced.

- [Repealing SBP-DIC offset](#), known as the 'Widows Tax' – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.
- [Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD's health care](#) – protecting continued access to quality care.\*
- [Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform](#) – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.\*
- [Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes](#) (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.\*
- [Protecting TRICARE For Life \(TFL\)](#) – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).\*
- [Maintaining pay raise comparability](#) – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.\*
- [Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements](#) – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.\*
- [Defeating 'COLA Minus 1 Percent'](#) – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.\*

- [Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability](#) – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.\*
- [Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability](#) – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.\*
- [Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage](#) – and securing a premium cut.
- [Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service](#) – now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

**Note: A major emphasis for MOAA members and VCOC over the past year was to ensure inclusion in FY2021 a hold on the MTF downsizing and reform and cutting 18,000 medical personnel billets. This topic has been included in many PACMOAA newsletters over the past year. MAJ Ferki**

### **Ongoing Deployments of Military Personnel in 2020 and January 2021**

Over the past year, military personnel - medical, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.- have been deployed throughout the county to assist the civilian community in the fight against COVID 19 pandemic.

As of 29 April 2020 per MOAA, approximately 4,400 active duty military medical personnel had been deployed for COVID 19. All services were involved. That number included the USNS Comfort being deployed with 1000 medical personnel, most of them from NMCP and the USNS Mercy that was deployed to California! The Army Urban Augmentation Task Force provided personnel to local hospitals across the county. For example : personnel from 531<sup>st</sup> Hospital Center from Ft Campbell and 9<sup>th</sup> Hospital Center out of Texas were sent to New Jersey, about 650 medical personnel and more from the 627<sup>th</sup> Hospital Center from Ft Carson were sent to Seattle. The Navy Expeditionary Medical Facility was deployed to treat COVID 19 patients. Air Force Reserve personnel were mobilized to staff New York's Javits Center after the Army Corps of Engineers, transformed the convention center's expansive exposition halls into an overflow medical facility. In Virginia, we learned that Governor Northam reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers to select sites near medical centers that could be repurposed to hold more COVID 19 patients if the need arose. This was done in many other states as well. Building or renovating existing structures and looking at potential sites for expansion of medical facilities was done in many states by the Corps of Engineers.

To help fill in the vacancies left at military medical facilities, the U.S. Army put out a voluntary recall for retired medical personnel to assist with the response to the pandemic in late March. I was not on that list, possibly because I retired 33 years ago and did not have a critical care MOS. More than 25,000 of the 800,000 retired soldiers volunteered and about 400 were selected to serve. Another attempt to fill in the vacancies at military facilities was the early graduation from the military medical school, USUHS (Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences) of 170 medical students and 60 graduate nursing students. In addition, many National Guard and reservists had to be called up to fill active duty medical billets.

In May, some Army Reserve nurses from Ft Shafter, Hawaii were deployed to help the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianna Islands to help increase medical capacity in response to COVID 19.

In July, 740 Army, Navy, and Air Force medical personnel were deployed to Texas and California to combat large surges in COVID 19 cases. NMCP Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Rapid Rural Response Team (RRRT) was deployed to hospital in Texas from 19 July - 7 September.

“Per the National Guard Bureau on 14 January 2021, many National Guard members who supported COVID-19 response efforts in 2020 spent much of the year conducting tests, sanitizing facilities, providing logistical support and delivering meals and personal protective equipment.

As early as mid-December, select Guard units were preparing to support local health officials by collecting, securing, transporting and, when requested, administering COVID-19 vaccinations.”

On 14 June 2020 in his briefing, Governor Northam noted that Virginia National Guard (VNG) Troops in Virginia have been working hard moving supplies as well as assisting with screening for COVID 19 throughout the state! Part of their pay is being funded by the federal government as part of the COVID response and that has been continued through March. Most of the VNG are citizen soldiers who have full time jobs in their respective professions. They are our friends and neighbors who are called up to serve, often with minimal notice and do so as needed.

On 6 January, Governor Northam stated in his COVID update that he was deploying National Guard members to help with COVID 19 inoculations to help increase the pace of the vaccine being administered, and the next day 2400 VNG troops were deployed to help protect the capital. About 26,500 NG troops were in DC for the inauguration and around 7000 will remain until mid-March. At least 1000 VNG will remain in DC, possibly through mid-March. The NG remaining in DC will all be volunteers per National Guard Bureau.

Hal Hostetler spoke with LTC Gallavan from the VNG Brigade Staff on 1/25/21 per the pictures of National Guard troops sleeping on the concrete floor in the Capital garage and asked what PACMOAA can do to support them. MAJ Gallavan presented a great overview of the VNG and specifically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 183<sup>rd</sup> Calvary when he was the Commander of the unit in September 2020. He told Hal that the pictures showing troops lying on a concrete garage floor was when they were taking breaks between their 3 hours on and 3 hours off for a 12 hour shift. When off duty, they are all housed in hotels throughout DC. LTC Gallavan also said the troops had been relocated to a much better break garage since those pictures circulated. All the Portsmouth members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 183<sup>rd</sup> Calvary are in DC now. **PACMOAA will continue to see what we can do to support the local VNG unit in Portsmouth.**

#### Updates from 1/27/21:

- Governor Northam again noted that the VNG had been assisting with screening and moving supplies and now about 200 VNG members will help with administering COVID 19 vaccine throughout the state. The National Guard on 14 January website noted: “As early as mid-December, select Guard units were preparing to support local health officials by collecting, securing, transporting and, when requested, administering COVID-19 vaccinations.”
- Several news stations and articles reported that FEMA is approaching DOD about using up to 10,000 military personnel to assist with administering COVID 19 vaccinations at about 100 sites across the country.

These are the deployments I have been able to track but probably not all deployments.

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### **PACMOAA Participated in Dedication Ceremony for Starbuck’s Military Family Store in Portsmouth**

PACMOAA member Bruce LaLonde, CAPT, USN (Ret) and Deputy Treasurer for Portsmouth forwarded a message to MAJ Ferki from Leesa Tipton, District Manager for Starbucks seeking to have community leaders speak at their dedication.

On 4 December 2020, Starbucks dedicated our Portsmouth location at 361 Effingham Boulevard to the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth as a Military Family Store. The Military Family Stores (MFS) function as the hub within military communities, in partnership with local Veteran Service organizations and bases they serve. Many of the Military Family Stores have small rooms where families can meet and/or have activities like signing cards to send to servicemen overseas.

This was Starbucks first **virtual** dedication and they dedicating 3 stores together, – Portsmouth to the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Hampton Blvd to Naval Station Norfolk, and Wayne Memorial Hwy to Seymour Johnson AFB. Members from local government and/or VSOs represented each store.

Bruce LaLonde represented Portsmouth and MAJ Ferki represented PACMOAA. Military partners that attended included Mission Continues, Blue Star Families, and Reach Across America. Many employees including managers told their stories per how they came to work for Starbucks and how supportive of the military community they are! Several employees had worked for Starbucks for more than 10 years through several transfers. Most were spouses, retirees or veterans.

In 2013, Starbucks made a commitment to employ 10,000 veterans later increased their goal to 25,000 and currently employ 30,000 military veterans and/or spouses throughout the country!

Article below on Starbucks.com explaining what these stores mean for the communities they serve.

<https://stories.starbucks.com/stories/2019/starbucks-military-family-stores-a-place-to-connect/>

There are 3 Military Family Stores in Hampton Roads: Ward's Corner and Hampton Boulevard in Norfolk, and at Effingham Street in Portsmouth which brings the total of Military Family Stores in the Mid-Atlantic region to 13. As of May 2019, there were 55 Military Family Stores throughout the country.

## HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

**COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE: From the NMCP Website**

**2 February 2021, 10:15 a.m.**

### PHASE 1B

- For operational forces, U.S. Fleet Forces will coordinate with your command to schedule a time for vaccinations. If you are Active Duty, please **DO NOT CALL** the NMCP COVID Call Center to make an appointment.
- For DoD Beneficiaries 75 years or older. If you are **ELIGIBLE** for care at NMCP and want to receive the COVID vaccine, please contact the COVID Call Center at 757-953-6200 and select option #2 **TWICE** to schedule your first and second doses of the vaccine. To book your appointment, please contact the COVID Call Center from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday, and from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the weekend and on holidays. **If you are not part of the greater than 75 years old eligible beneficiary group, please DO NOT CALL to make an appointment.**

**COVID vaccine appointments are based on vaccine availability which is not determined by NMCP.**

**If you initially received your vaccination by walking in, please walk in for your second dose. No appointment necessary for walk-in second dose.**

NMCP Immunization Clinic hours are Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last walk in accepted at 3:30 p.m.), Saturdays 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. (last walk in accepted at 11:30 a.m.)

**Note: The Above information has changed over 5 times over the past few days so check on website, Facebook or call before going to hospital to receive vaccine unless 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine.**

All local cities are offering the vaccine but limited supplies and have different schedules. You should call your local health department or sign up online at this time.

**NOTE ON VACCINATIONS IN VIRGINIA:** At Governor Northam’s press conference on 1/27/2021 , he noted that the Virginia General Assembly is looking at legislation to increase the number of health care professionals that can administer vaccines even if do not normally do so. He noted that some might need more training than others. The governor specifically mentioned *Physicians, Veterinarians, and Podiatrists. They would have to be under the supervision of an RN.*

### NMCP PHARMACY UPDATE

Beginning 1 February 2021 at the Scott Center Annex Pharmacy drive-thru hours will be **7:30 am to 5 pm Monday – Saturday** for refill pickup and pickup for new prescriptions initiated and processed via NMCP Pharmacy Call Center.

## SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

### 2020 REVIEW FROM MOAA.ORG

By: Anne Hartline January 04, 2021

Despite obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) continued to serve all surviving spouses and spouses in the focus areas of encouraging, engaging, and educating. Some major accomplishments were:

- **Surviving Spouse Liaison Training at MOAA’s Regional Leadership Conferences** — SSAC members led training at the in-person Florida conference in January and at the virtual events in Colorado Springs and Louisville in September and November, respectively.
- **Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter** — Membership continues to grow, with 134 members from 30 states. The chapter meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October at 1 p.m., Eastern Time. The 2020 July and October meetings took place via Zoom. For more information, email [mssvco2@gmail.com](mailto:mssvco2@gmail.com) or go to the [surviving spouse section of MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org/surviving-spouse).
- **Articles for MOAA Newsletters** — SSAC members wrote monthly articles that are published on the first Thursday of each month in [The MOAA Newsletter](#). Read past articles [here](#).
- **Celebrating the Elimination of the “Widows Tax”** — In February, several SSAC members attended the congressional reception on Capitol Hill to [celebrate the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset](#), also called the widows tax. The repeal of the widows tax is the result of lobbying and letter-writing dating back to the mid-1970s when associations like MOAA (then TROA) and others were lobbying for full payment of SBP without offsets to Social Security and DIC.
- **Selection of New SSAC Members** — Barbara Bowman (Oklahoma), Renee Brunelle (Florida), Patricia Green (Florida), and Vivianne Wersel (North Carolina) were selected to serve on the council from 2020-24, with the option of remaining on for two additional years. [Read more about members of the SSAC](#).
- **Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award** — Mary Dunagan from the Cape Canaveral (Fla.) Chapter was selected for this award. She also serves as the surviving spouse liaison for the Florida Council of Chapters. [Read more about Mary and her accomplishments](#).

- **Facebook Group Name Change** — The group was renamed [“Surviving Spouses and Friends”](#) so people other than surviving spouses can join.

The opportunity to serve as an SSAC member for the past six years has been a great honor for me. MOAA is an organization composed of a myriad programs designed to serve members and led by incredible professionals. I feel I have been part of an SSAC team that has blazed new trails for surviving spouse members and spouses of living uniformed servicemembers. We changed our name from “auxiliary members” to “surviving spouse members” to represent our status as voting MOAA members. What began as an almost total focus on advocacy six years ago has developed into a broad spectrum of programs.

I especially appreciate the opportunity to assist in the development of the surviving spouse liaison training for the MOAA regional conferences. I am confident the new SSAC will raise services to higher levels as they “never stop serving.”

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)

## CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

### Serenity Prayer

Reinhold Niebuhr

God, give me grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.

Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.  
Amen.

Thank you to CAPT Robert Brewer, USN (Ret) for sharing this at the January Installation of officers.

**THAT’S A WRAP FOR FEBRUARY!**

**PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM 2021**

**FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NICKNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE/RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SERVICE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTH DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOAA Membership No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ (From MOAA card or Military Off. Mailing Label)

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse's Nickname:** \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to serve as board member or on a committee? ( ) Yes ( ) No

<u>Please circle payment plan you select:</u>	<b>Discount</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>
			<u><b>Best Value</b></u>
<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>2 Year</b>	<b>3Year</b>
<b>Retired/Active/Vet Regular (Voting Member)</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$42.50</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Surviving Spouse (Voting Member)</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>	<b>\$48.00</b>
<b>Active Duty (Non-Voting Member)</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$8.50</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>

**Mail payment to: PACMOAA at PACMOAA, PO Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703**

**Or pay via PayPal :**

From the PayPal 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](mailto:PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com) in the block where is 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.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_