



# The Salute online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August.

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December 2015



## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

That great season from Thanksgiving to the New Year is suddenly upon us again. We hope all of you will be blessed. We certainly wish to see you at our Christmas Gala, Thursday, December the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Below is the photo of all the Virginia chapter leaders, who received National awards at the MOAA Annual meeting in Orlando on Halloween night. I'm standing front left. Brenda and I enjoyed the entire experience. President Norb Ryan said "goodbye" and shared much important info concerning accomplishments along with admonitions concerning a hard road ahead. He echoed the theme "Never stop serving." The new President for 2016 was announced. He is Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, U S Air Force (Ret.)

In other sessions we heard from Vice Admiral Sean Pivus, Chief of Special Ops at Central Command. He related moving vignettes and facts about 8000 special ops personnel serving in eighty countries.

We were briefed by COL Barry Wright at a "Chapter Round Table" concerning many nuts and bolts subjects that included a spirited question and answer period.

On Friday evening 30 October, MOAA honored the many care givers who volunteer tirelessly helping support our wounded military personnel. Saturday evening was the close-out when the awards were given. It was a great time. We wish all of you could have been there. Again we hope to see you on the 10<sup>th</sup>. In any case Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and whatever else comes your way.

Never Stop Serving,  
Hal



## Chapter Happenings

<b>Dec 07 Pearl Harbor Day</b>	<b>Dec 22 Winter Solstice</b>
<b>Dec 10 PACMOAA GALA</b>	<b>Dec 25 Christmas</b>
<b>Dec 13 National Guard Birthday</b>	<b>Dec 31 New Year's Eve</b>

[Click Here for  
DIRECTORY](#)

### DECEMBER GALA

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday, 10 December** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

#### MENU Choice of ENTRÉE

Salad with variety dressings

Chicken Cordon Bleu (sauce on the side) with potatoes

or

Sesame Seared Salmon with Bok Choy ginger served with rice

Seasonal Vegetable Medley Rolls and Butter

Selection of Desserts at each table

Ice, Tea, Coffee, Water

Cost is **\$40.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Thursday, 3 December** with Sherry Ferki.— . **Please note the change in reservation deadline caused by the menu choice!** Come join us for good company, good food and a good time. Specify meal choice with reservation.

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

### DECEMBER GALA PROGRAM

Our festivities begin at 6PM with an hour of socializing, sharing, and picture taking. LTC Pratt's Marine Corp JROTC students from Churchland High School will be there collecting gifts for the **Corps "Toys for Tots"** program. **Please bring new unwrapped gifts.** The ages most needed are for 7 to 12 years old as most people tend to bring gifts for younger children. We will also be collecting donations for the **Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless Drop-in Service Center.** This has been done at every meeting since the Executive Director spoke to us at the October 2011 meeting. They always need laundry detergent, as well as small personal sized grooming items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant and shampoo. These items are put together in plastic bags at the Drop-In center to give each person the essentials needed when showering. The last item to remember during this hour is to turn your Pollyanna gift to the official PACMOAA elf, Sherry Ferki I believe, if you are participating in the gift exchange. A PACMOAA tradition at the annual Christmas party is buying a small gift for the Pollyanna gift exchange. Remember, gifts are not to exceed the \$10 to \$15 price range.



## Chapter Happenings

Please mark the untagged gift with the designation "man" or "woman". If all the gentlemen bring a man's gift and the ladies bring woman's gift, the official Christmas elf will have no problems placing participant names on the gifts for distribution after Santa arrives. Dinner will finally be served at 7PM.

The Tidewater Concert Band, world famous in Hampton Roads, will be entertaining us during the evening with a performance and dance music. Dancing depends on participation. If you have not seen the Merry Christmas video from PACMOAA; click [HERE](#). All in all the Gala is always great fun. I hope to see everyone there.

### RESULTS ARE IN FOR NOVEMBER 2015 ELECTION

Sherry Ferki, Immediate Past President, and Bob Steorts formed the election committee with assistance from Gordon Nelson per electronic voting. Votes were received by electronic voting (7), mailed ballots (6) and members voting at the meeting (12) for a total of 25 votes. Thus, 31% of the members voted; the same percentage as last year.

**1st Vice President:** CDR Kenneth G. App, USN (Ret) for January 2016 to January 2018.

**2nd Vice President:** LCDR Dolly Cherrington, USN (Ret) for January 2016 to January 2018.

**Treasurer:** CDR Hans Sachse , USN (Ret) from January 2016 to January 2018.

**Board of Directors:** both will serve from January 2016 to January 2018.

Mrs. Bettye Hussey, Auxiliary Member

CWO4 Whitney Jones, USCG (Ret)

Congratulations to all the newly elected Leadership Team members and best wishes for a successful two years in their respective posi-

tions. Unfortunately, all of them except CDR Sachse were out of town so their pictures will be in the January newsletter.

### WELCOME ABOARD

*The Salute* extends a hardy welcome to:

**Capt. Hugh Story USN (Ret.) and his wife Colleen who live in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Also welcome back Capt. James Belin USN (Ret) and his wife Laura who live in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Welcome June Leckrone as a new \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary member.**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lawrence G Anderson

Ronald E Fritz

David H Hornaman

Harold R Hostetler Jr.

Bruce G La Londe

Irene Wagner

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

### "GIVE THANKS"

We have so much to be thankful for, and we sometimes forget just how much we do have. We live in the USA - free to work, to play, to go where ever we wish, to worship as we please,

to have family and friends around us, and many more things that we don't even think about. Freedom is a wonderful, wonderful situation, and we have that thanks to those who have given of themselves, and many others who are giving today in many parts of the world.

As we celebrate this Christmas, let us also never forget the sacrifices of others who make our freedom possible. Please say a prayer for those who served, and still serving to keep us free. Merry Christmas!

Bob Steorts, Chaplain

## NOVEMBER 2015 PACMOAA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

### REPORTS:

President: COL Hal Hostetler

Report from MOAA Annual meeting - Included in "From the President"

MOAA motto : Never Stop Serving

Other items

Treasurer: CDR Hans Sachse

Overall status - Ending with a surplus due to money from MOAA for new members and maintaining 95% of members in 2014; sponsorship from USAA for scholarship winners, their families and JROTC cadets; charging \$40.00 at June and December dinner meetings; new members; and several members changing to Lifetime members of PACMOAA.

Balance in operating fund - About \$6000.00.

Balance in scholarship fund - Total with CD's is about \$7,800.00 with about \$2864.00 in the operating scholarship fund. It has to maintain a minimum of \$1000.00 and the \$1864 remaining will fund the two scholarships awarded for 2015.

Review of cost of meals vs payment since increased cost of June and Dec dinners

(briefly addressed in review of 3 Sept board meeting in Oct newsletter) over the past 19 months - Average cost of meal, including taxes and tip, is \$30.00 - \$32.00/person. PACMOAA lost an average of \$65.00 meeting, with an increased deficit noted per meeting in 2015. Some of this is due to members not paying for dinners when absent and speakers meals.

Treasurer's Report for 2015 will be included in the January newsletter.

Membership: LCDR Dolly Cherrington unable to attend. MAJ Ferki reported

Membership has decreased from 114 members in January 2011 to 91 members the end of December 2014.

Current membership numbers: 81 members. 61 reg & 18 aux with the addition of Hugh Story and June Leckrone the night of the meeting

New members this year: 9

Deaths this year: 7

MOAA program focusing on chapters

REMEMBER YOU CAN UPGRADE YOUR MOAA MEMBERSHIP FROM ANNUAL TO LIFETIME and PACMOAA gets a bonus for that!

Programs: Position vacant. MAJ Sherry Ferki reported

Dec: Christmas party

Jan: Installation of officers. Deputy Secretary Jaime Areizaga-Soto, Veterans and Defense Affairs. JROTC Color Guard for this meeting

Feb: Peter Youngblood, Army medic in Vietnam, board meeting 25 February 2016

Mar: COL Irv Lindley, USA (Ret), Chairman of Mayor's Military Committee. Portsmouth

Also discussed different potential speakers

VCOE Rep.: Col Steve Turner was unable to attend. October Biennial meeting held in Williamsburg where 3 PACMOAA members were inducted as VCOE officers! Also had memorial ceremony for members that died between October 2013 and October 2015.

Leg. Rep.: CWO4 Karl Wilson

Combined VCOE and Legislative meeting in Richmond on 9 December

JLC Agenda for 2016 to include:

Veteran Care centers in Northern VA and Virginia Beach

Increase benefit services offices - Have state benefits services office in Chesapeake at TCC.

Electronic ballot returns

Other items discussed included:

Push Virginia Department of Veterans and Defense Affairs to have Veterans Dockets - in local courts, approved by General Assembly but no money allocated

**Push for certification of military medals** - Sherry Ferki mentioned she had a student that discussed this recently

**Newsletter and website : Thanks to Gordon for all his hard work on both of these!**

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS TO ADDRESS:**

Election – See election committee report in this newsletter.

New Directory will come out via email and regular mail soon and will have regular updates - I promise.

5 Star Level of Excellence for 5th year in a row!! MOAA membership IMPORTANT for 98% of membership to maintain this!! Sherry mentioned calling MOAA per reported 10% discrepancy between what LOE entries noted and MOAA calculated. Apparently, the cause of this is some members not renewing their MOAA membership but maintaining their chapter membership.

**BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH MOAA if you are not a lifetime member** - they are the resource per National issues as well as many other resources!

#### 4. Steps taken over past 4 years to decrease costs/deficit

1. Cost of meal increased from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per vote at November 2011 business meeting

2. Dues increased from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for regular members and from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for auxiliary members per vote at November 2012 business meeting. First increase in dues in at least 15 years.

3. Cost of meals for June and December increased at November 2013 business meeting to \$40.00 with cost of \$30.00/meal for all other dinners.

4. Options to be voted on to maintain good financial status per dinners:

Continue paying \$30.00/person for all meetings with the exception of June and December. The price for those dinners will be \$40.00/person to cover the extra expenses of scholarship winners and their family in June and the Christmas gala with the band in December.

Increase the cost of all dinners to \$35.00/person

DISCUSSION - Discussed and unanimously approved 1st option - to continue \$30.00/meal except in June and December. Sherry Ferki to check with hotel and see if slightly smaller portions would impact cost.

5. Vote on Bylaw Suggestions from Bylaws Committee Approved by BOD - mailed/emailed with newsletter. Some copies available at meeting.

DISCUSSION - Reviewed suggested changes. Suggestion made and approved to change auxiliary to surviving spouses as

MOAA has done and to include in FOR-WORD comment per generic use of he to represent he or she throughout the By-laws. Otherwise, Bylaws approved as suggested. Members will receive a copy of the revised bylaws in January.

6. Need someone to call members every month to remind them about dinner and take reservations - Rick Titi, Peg Cicirelli and Sherry Ferki are currently doing this. Sherry will revise call list as some members do not wish to be called and redistribute it.

#### 7. Scholarship awards

Recipient receives ½ of award 1<sup>st</sup> semester of school (money is sent to the school) if he/she is enrolled in ROTC program.

Recipient receives 2<sup>nd</sup> half of award (sent to the school) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of school if he/she is still enrolled in an ROTC program

**Continued support of scholarship program with donations allows PAC-MOAA to award 2 scholarships/year.**

8. Reminder on Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless

9. Any other business to address? Only to confirm 2 rooms reserved for 10 December meeting - Sherry will follow up on this

Some members of the Leadership Team do not submit not submitting claims for expenses – if someone else assumes position, expenses may rise unexpectedly.

Meeting adjourned: 2030

## NEWS FROM MOAA

### MOAA TOP GUN AGAIN For 9<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

Vice Admiral Norb Ryan Jr. USN (Ret.), President Military Officers Association of America, was cited by, The Hill, a Capitol Hill daily newspaper as a top association lob-

byist. The paper noted that Ryan “spent the last year fighting to preserve U.S. troop pay and benefits against budget cuts, a cause he’ll continue to champion in upcoming fiscal fights.”

“This recognition belongs to our 390,000+ members, MOAA Chapter and Council leaders, our Board of Directors and superb MOAA staff,” Ryan said. “We take seriously our motto to ‘Never Stop Serving’ our members and the entire military community including currently serving families, retirees, veterans, and survivors. Political leaders need to remember that our men and women in uniform are the only weapon system that has never let the nation down.”

### PAST PACMOAA CHRISTMAS GALAS



Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it

*Richard Lamm*

Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered.

*Colette*

**TIME IS RUNNING SHORT SO  
[MAKE YOUR GALA RESERVATION HERE!](#)**

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR DECEMBER  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND  
TO ALL A GOOD YEAR**