

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Message
- Here Comes Santa
- December Dinner Reservation Form
- Time is Running Out: Chapter Dues are Due
- How Chapter Membership Dues are Used
- Toys for Tots Collection
- 2020 Membership Dues Form
- Holiday Suggestions for Veteran Patients
- Two Ways to Help JROTC
- What is ESGR?
- Mark Your Calendars for Massing of the Colors
- 2019 Events Schedule
- 2019 Officers, Directors and Chairs
- Sponsors · Photo Gallery · Archived Newsletters

From National MOAA:

- 2020 FEDVIP Dental and Vision Plan Prices Released
- Senate Scrambles to Stop Government Shutdown
- What You Should Know About Bills That Would Reform The Windfall Elimination Provision



HERE COMES SANTA

Contributor: Peggy McGee,
2nd Vice President/Programs;
Public Relations Officer



Ho, ho, ho. Here comes Santa—or one of his elves—since Santa is pretty busy at the North Pole.

Our annual holiday party will be on Wednesday, December 11 with a social period starting at 5. Dinner for which you have a choice between Prime Rib or grilled Salmon with seasonal vegetables and a decadent chocolate dessert will be served at 5:30. Cost for the meal is \$26.50.

Please get your reservation form in the mail ASAP since we need an initial count by December 1. If you can't get your check in the mail on time, please call Phil Lamb at 503-730-3664 with your menu choice.

If you haven't had the opportunity to pay your 2020 dues yet, Membership Chair Elliott Jones our will be ready to assist you. And we will also gladly accept donations for our Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund. Checks should be made payable to MOAA S&MA Fund.

During the evening you will have the opportunity to see your Board of Officers sworn in for 2020. Remember to thank them for giving their time to keep the club rolling along smoothly. The highlight of the evening will take place as the winning numbers for the Christmas gifts, tastefully wrapped by Diana Longo, will be drawn. We hope you can join us for our last event of 2019.



December 11, 2019 - Social: 5pm - Dinner: 5:30pm Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse – Crystal Ballroom

Please make your reservations by December 1st

Please reserve _____ places.

Cost: \$ _____ (\$26.50 per person)

Indicate your meal choice: [] PRIME RIB [] GRILLED SALMON

Both are served with seasonal vegetables, and a decadent chocolate dessert.

Check # _____

Attn: **GV MOA Reservation**

Mail your check and this reservation form to:

MOA of Green Valley, PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

Rank: _____

Name: (please print) _____

I am bringing guest(s) whose name(s) is/are:

Write in "meal choice":

GUEST 1

GUEST 2

GUEST 3

GUEST 4

If you require a ride to the meeting, program or event, please check here:

✂ ----- CUT HERE -----

If you cannot get your reservation and check mailed timely, or **if you have made a reservation and find you cannot attend PLEASE CALL Phil Lamb at 520-771-6098 or 503-730-3664. Your chapter is charged for all ordered meals even if they aren't served.** Please bring a check or exact cash amount to the meeting.

Hearing Aid Assist Device at Quail Creek ⇨ If you are a member with Hearing Aids who still has difficulty hearing the speakers at the meal-plated meetings, Quail Creek does offer a Hearing Aid Assist Loop device. The Hearing Aid Assist is a loop system in the meeting room and can be turned on and individuals would wear a device around their neck which helps amplify the sound through their hearing aids. In order for this assist device to work the individual must have a Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implants with TeleCoil (T-Coil) capability. This device only works with hearing aids with this capability and will not work on individuals with no hearing aid at all.

If you or a guest would like to utilize this service at Quail Creek for future meetings, I ask that you notify us in advance so we can have it available for you. You can notify us by writing your request on your meeting reservation form or contact **Phil Lamb at 520-771-6098 or 503-730-3664.**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO PAY 2020 CHAPTER DUES

Contributor: Elliott Jones, 1st Vice President/Membership



Just a reminder that your membership is very important to the MOA Green Valley Chapter as well as to the national organization. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. Each member adds to MOAA's voice, speaking for a strong national defense and presenting the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

Specifically, our Green Valley chapter also has a Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to outstanding JROTC students from four local high schools. His Scholarship Fund is combined with a Military Assistance Fund to help the families of Arizona Air National Guard personnel.

We need your renewal to continue our efforts to provide support to the various organizations in our community. **If you pay by the end of 2019, we stand to get a bonus deposited to our checking account by MOAA HQ. Timely payment of dues also gives us points to help maintain our 5-star status in the National program.**

TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION

Contributor: Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer

Many thanks to all who brought donations for the annual *Toys for Tots* collection to the November meeting. We are not sure why the Marine Corps League representative didn't show up that night as scheduled but all the donations have been turned over to them.

In addition to the toys there were gift cards totaling \$125 and monetary donations totaled \$220. Your thoughtful gifts will help make some needy children very happy on Christmas.



HOW THE MOAA OF GREEN VALLEY MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE USED

Contributor: Myra McCune, MOAA of GV Treasurer

Have you, as a member of the MOA of Green Valley, ever wondered how your annual chapter dues are spent? As the treasurer of our chapter, let me share with you what happens when you pay chapter membership dues. The chapter fees are used to pay for many things such as:

- Speaker and entertainment fees incurred during chapter events.
- Under write the cost of meals (lunches and dinners).
- Administrative fees such as; stamps, printing of thank you letters for donations received, ink, website fees, filing tax fees, Post Office Box fees.

These are some of the ways our chapter membership fees are spent. Thank you for paying your chapter dues which helps us to keep the Green Valley Chapter open and active.



Military Officers Association of America
Green Valley, Arizona Chapter
P.O. Box 1535
Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

2020 Chapter Membership Dues

Chapter Dues: (Regular-\$25; Auxiliary-\$15)

Membership Dues \$_____ Make check payable to: Military Officers Association of Green Valley (or GV MOAA).

PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Rank: _____ Branch of Service: _____ National # _____

Auxiliary _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

DOB _____

Month/Day/Year: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund \$_____ Donation.

Make check payable to Green Valley MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or GV MOAA S&MA Fund. **Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to Military Officers Association of America, Green Valley, Arizona Chapter, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535.**

HOLIDAY SUGGESTIONS FOR VETERAN PATIENTS

Contributor: Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer

The holidays can be very difficult for hospitalized and homeless Veterans. To make their time at the VA more comfortable, please consider donating gifts that they do not normally receive at the hospital (i.e., no toiletries). For the safety of the hospitalized veterans, please do not donate items that are breakable, contain glass and/or sharp objects, or food that may compromise their diets. The homeless veterans appreciate snacks items like granola bars, dried fruit, cheese and crackers or ready-to-eat foods.



- Gift Cards
- Baseball Hats
- Knit Hats
- Back Scratchers
- Watches
- Gloves/Scarfs
- Book Lights
- Audio Books on CD
- CD players with headset
- Puzzle Books (Including large print)
- Playing Cards
- Hand Held Electronic Games
- Calendars
- Note Pads

Bring items to the dinner on **December 11** and one of Santa's helpers will deliver them to the VA Hospital.

TWO WAYS TO HELP THE JROTC

Contributor: Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer



As you think about end-of-year giving, there are two ways you can help the JROTC programs in southern Arizona schools and your pocketbook too.

As you know, our Chapter has a Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund. The monies in that fund come from donations, mostly from Chapter members, as well as from grants. The scholarship portion of the fund enables us to award scholarships to deserving students from Nogales, Rio Rico, Walden Grove and Sahuarita High Schools. The latter two schools all come under the program sponsored by the Sahuarita

Unified School District.

As you may have read, costs for higher education seems to grow much faster than the rest of the economy so the more we can help with scholarships, the better it is to keep the cadets from incurring large student loans. Checks payable to *MOAA S&MA* may be turned in at the December 11 dinner or mailed to MOAA, Green Valley Chapter, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535. You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift from the Chapter for tax purposes.

The second way you can help is by making a donation directly to the schools and designate that the money is to be used for the JROTC program. This is where your pocketbook benefits directly. All donations to Arizona Public schools are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar credit on Arizona tax obligations up to \$400 for those filing jointly and \$200 for single filers. These credits apply whether one itemizes or uses the standard deduction. This tax credit can be used in addition to the credits given for contributions to the working poor, e.g., the Food Bank, Salvation Army in AZ.

We will have donations forms for the Sahuarita School district at the December 11 dinner. Online donations can be made for JROTC students at Sahuarita at sUSD30.us and Rio Rico at scv35.org. As of the date we went to press the Nogales school district did not accept online donations. However checks payable to NUSD #1 with the notation that the money is for the JROTC program may be mailed to NUSD #1, 310 W. Plum St, Nogales, AZ 85621. When you make a donation directly to the school, you get an acknowledgement from the school.

WHAT IS ESGR?

Contributor: Richard Kosnick, ESGR Representative



You may have seen the title *ESGR Representative* on the page of the newsletter that lists the officers and board members and asked yourself the question, "What is this ESGR?" The acronym stands for *Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve*. This

Department of Defense program was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

Your Chapter has routinely had a representative for this vital program that is supported by a network of more than 3,750 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Your representative acts as a liaison to National MOAA. He meets with the local Guard/Reserve units on their drill weekends. He consults with the unit members to ensure their civilian employers have a clear understanding of the necessity for a flexible work schedule for Guard and Reserve employees.

ESGR has served our country for more than 45 years, fostering a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve. These citizen warriors could not defend and protect us at home and abroad without the continued promise of meaningful civilian employment for themselves and their families. ESGR has continued to adapt to meet the needs of Reserve Component members, their families, and America's employers by joining forces with a network of other national, state, and local government and professional trade organizations.

In a future issue of *Desert Duster* we hope to give some examples of the activities of the ESGR program in the greater Tucson area.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MASSING OF THE COLORS IN JANUARY

Contributor: Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer



The Santa Cruz Valley Chapter Military Order of the World Wars 33rd Annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance will be held on Friday, January 17, 2020 starting at 10 a.m.

The ceremony to be held at the Sahuarita Unified School District Auditorium Complex lasts about two hours.

Details will follow in the January newsletter but mark your calendars now.

2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE



December 11 – Holiday Dinner: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom # 1 & 2.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2020 LUNCHEON AND DINNER MEETING DATES.

Details will be published in January on the website and in next month's newsletter:

January 15 (11:30am)	LUNCHEON
March 18 (4:30pm)	MIX & MINGLE
May 6 (5pm)	SCHOLARSHIP DINNER
Sept. 16 (11:30am)	LUNCHEON
November 9 (5pm)	DINNER
December 9 (5pm)	HOLIDAY DINNER

The Board of Directors meeting is the 1st Wednesday of each month 8:30-10am at the Friends in Deed Building, Green Valley. Members are welcomed to attend... join us! There will be no Board meetings in June, July or August.

2019 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS

(Area code is 520 unless otherwise indicated)

President: 1LT Joseph Longo USA (Fmr) 509-645-4993

First Vice-President and Membership:
1LT Elliott Jones USA (Fmr) (847) 366-6466

Second Vice-President and Programs:
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

Secretary: Jadine Hilt (414) 350-7821

Treasurer: CDR Myra McCune, USN (Ret) 399-3326

Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3):
LCDR James Knox, USN (Ret) 605-941-0335

National MOAA Board Member, Past President, Legislative Affairs:
CDR John Chernoski, USN, (Ret) 625-3909

ESGR Representative:
Lt Col Dick Kosnick, USAF, (Ret) 867-8999

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Betty Eby-Deardorff 625-3545

Director, Personal Affairs:
CWO3 James Rundlett, USCG (Ret) 509-389-4286

Chaplain: Linda Kosnick 867-8999

Director/JROTC Liaison:
COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret) 210-861-9440

Historian: COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret)
210-861-9440

Transition Liaison:
(OPEN)

Public Relations Officer:
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor:
Marianne Cobarrubias, webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org

SPONSORS

A special “thank you” to our sponsors who support MOAA of Green Valley with a sponsor ad.

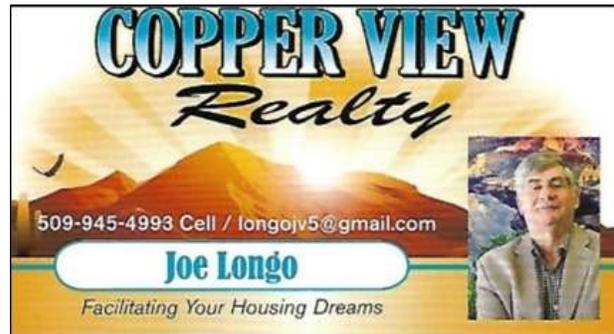


PHOTO GALLERY

Photos and video clips may be accessed in the Photo Gallery via a link in the website sidebar:

greenvalleymoaa.org

ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

Looking for back issues of the chapter's newsletter? Go to the News & Events page on the website:

greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events

MOAA NATIONAL NEWS

2020 FEDVIP Dental and Vision Plan Prices Released

In preparation for the upcoming open season, the Office of Personnel Management has released calendar year 2020 Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) pricing. Plan comparisons and pricing are now available on the www.benefeds.com website using the FEDVIP comparison tool.

Overall, FEDVIP dental rates will rise by an average of 5.6% for 2020; vision premiums will increase an average of 1.5%.

The change in dental premiums range from a decrease of -5.9% to an increase of 9.5% depending upon your location. OPM states that the two primary factors drove increases this year; the health care insurance provider's fee, which had been suspended in 2019 but reinstated in 2020, and an increase in utilization of services in a number of dental plans.

The average monthly Dental Premiums:

Self \$39.29

Self Plus One \$77.00

Self and Family \$112.88

National News, continued...

The average monthly Vision Premiums:

Self \$11.09

Self Plus One \$22.13

Self Plus Family \$31.99

The 2020 TRICARE and FEDVIP open season will run from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9

Senate Scrambles to Stop Government Shutdown

The Senate plans to take up two spending packages, including one on defense spending, this week in an effort to prevent a government shutdown. Appropriators plan to pass a bill funding several federal domestic agencies before moving on to defense spending.

The government is currently operating under a stopgap spending measure, known as a continuing resolution, until Nov. 21. Congress has only 14 legislative working days until then to reach a spending agreement.

It's possible Congress may pass a year-long continuing resolution. If that happens, funding levels would be set at last year's rates and the services would be unable to start work on new projects. It would disrupt TDY orders, flight training, and rebuilding installations damaged from storms, among other things.

The alternative would be another government shutdown. Unlike the previous government shutdown in January, where only a handful of federal agencies lacked funding, a full shutdown would be significantly more damaging.

After the shutdown, Congress passed legislation to ensure Coast Guard pay – including retired pay and survivor benefits – would continue in the event of another shutdown. However, commissioned officers in the Public Health Service and NOAA were not included in the law. MOAA continues to advocate for parity for officers in the Public Health Service and NOAA.

What You Should Know About Bills That Would Reform the Windfall Elimination Provision

Some people earn a retirement or disability pension from a job that does not pay into the Social Security system. Typically these people are federal service employees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) after 1956 or state employees like teachers. If these same people have employment in other jobs that do pay into Social Security, their earned Social Security benefits are decreased just because they have pension income from their non-Social Security job. This is due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

National News, continued...

There are two bills working in the House to reform the WEP and make it fairer: The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019 (H.R. 3934) and the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act (H.R. 4540). These provisions would change the calculation used for WEP to correct the current discrepancy of penalizing retirees with Social Security earnings.

These bills will not completely fix the WEP issue, but they do move down a path toward a permanent solution. You can get full details on the reform bills, including their status in Congress, by visiting the Congress.gov site ([H.R. 3934](#), [H.R. 4540](#)).

Newsletter Contributors: Elliott Jones, Richard Kosnick, Myra McCune, Peggy McGee

**January 2020 newsletter deadline:
DECEMBER 20**

