



VOLUME XXXIV ISSUE IV

The Salute

April 2015

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.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The March Fellowship: I thought we had a grand dinner meeting. I heard nothing but good things. COL Cherie Zadlo, USAF (Ret) was our guest speaker from MOAA (more later). Coming to hear her in response to the MOAA mailing were Bruce and Denise Adams, MAJ Travis Hartley, USAF, and Whitney Jones (I believe he immediately signed-on with PACMOAA). COL Zadlo was charming, interesting, and informative. She covered three

areas:

- Importance of Chapters (like PACMOAA): The 412 chapters nationwide are the heart and grass roots of MOAA's 390,000 members. By MOAA's very nature (All Officers) the organization has more officers than all other Veterans groups combined. As leader types our voices carry much weight. We are leaders who "never stop serving." Our work in storming hills (Washington and Richmond), responding quickly on vital issues, support of JROTC, scholarships, helping the homeless, and other such tasks are repeated nationwide. All this is primarily accomplished at the chapter level—thus the importance of an active PACMOAA.
- Advocacy (Our Focus): Cherie warned us that the President's/Pentagon's budget would decrease pay, increase out of pocket housing, make health care more expensive, put pay caps at levels below the private sector, and generally create an environment harmful to maintaining our "all volunteer" force. Proposals being considered could create seismic changes in pay, benefits, and retirement. Tricare could disappear. We need to hammer the truth that veteran and retiree benefits are not hand-outs, but earned on battlefields and with lives shuttled around the world.
- Products and Services: We were reminded that MOAA provides avenues of reduced cost for excellent services such as life, accident, health, and long term care insurance as well as USAA and other connections.

We had a healthy Q & A period at the end. It was a worthy presentation spoken well-of by all. Don't miss our April meeting where Ms. Morgan Mogush will orient us concerning our outstanding Albert Horton Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. Future programs will include a mix of mission, local interests, and just plain fun. Don't miss any.

Alert-Alive: That old Echo from Vietnam reminds me of our mission to "Never Stop Serving" as we advocate for our active military personnel, veterans, retirees, and all their families. Be "alert" for every opportunity to recruit new PAC PATS, and help PACMOAA have the best

presentations and efforts possible. Please let us know any and all of your thoughts on improving who we are (speakers, activities, camaraderie activities, etc.).

New Leaders: Karl Wilson is our new Legislative Representative. Contact him and offer to assist in communicating with our state and national representatives. Sign-up for the Congressional Luncheon, Thursday 21 May.

Joseph Bush is our new programs chair. Let him know your recommendations for speakers, etc.

Communications: Gordon Nelson, our excellent newsletter and Web site guru, is away for two months. As such we are reminded that we are in dire need of someone to be groomed for his roles (one or both) in the not too distant future. If you have the “techy” skills and/or interest for such endeavors—please let him/us know.

You Are Important: You are a vital force. We hope you realize that and will continue to support the great struggle by your continued membership and involvement. Come along for a legislative or VCOC trip or attend the leaders team (board) meeting sometime as an observer. We hope you’ll want more.

Thanks, and God bless you, PACMOAA, and the U.S.A.

Hal

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE / RENEWAL REMINDER

The PACMOAA dues were changed at the annual November business meeting in 2012, as follows:

Regular members pay \$25.00/year

Auxiliary members pay \$20.00/year

You can pay your dues at the next PACMOAA meeting or mail it to:

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 gala.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible so PACMOAA can continue to provide all these services.

At the end of 2013, PACMOAA had 99 members. At the end of 2014, PACMOAA had 91

members. **As of 18 March, PACMOAA has 51 paid members, 49 of those are renewals**

from last year. About 54% of members have renewed thus far this year. Last year at this time, 65 of 99 members had renewed, which was 66% renewals. Please include the renewal form to help us update our records. If you are not sure if you’ve paid yet, check with Dolly Cherrington or Hans Sachse. Remember the effectiveness VCOC has in the state legislature is related to chapter membership! See renewal form at the end of the newsletter. Thank you.

PACMOAA LEADERSHIP

[CLICK HERE](#)

APRIL MEETING

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday April 9th** 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

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing
 Chicken Florentine – Spinach, Tomatoes and White Wine Sauce
 Garlic Mashed Potatoes
 Snap Green Beans and Rolls
 Chef's Choice Dessert
 Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station
 Water and Ice Tea

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, April 5th** with Sherry Ferki. Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.

APRIL PROGRAM



Ms. Morgan Mogush representing the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans' Cemetery will be our guest speaker at our April dinner. Are you aware that the state operates two state cemeteries for veterans? The Horton Memorial that opened 2004 in Suffolk and the Amelia that opened 7 years earlier. Virginia also has 15 national veterans' cemeteries operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Arlington National Cemetery operated by the Department of the Army.

Any veteran with an honorable discharge, who is a resident of Virginia at the time of death or was a Virginia resident at the time of enlistment, is eligible for interment at either state cemetery. The veteran's spouse and (in some cases) a dependent child may also be interred for a nominal fee.

Ms. Morgan Mogush graduated from Lakeland High School in 2003, has held positions at Ferguson Rawls and Raines PC for seven years and has worked for at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veteran Cemetery for the past 3 1/2 years. She interacts with Veterans and Funeral Directors on a daily basis. Ms. Mogush's time at the cemetery is primarily spent assisting our



Veterans with pre-applications, computer inputting and funeral service scheduling. One of Ms. Morgan's primary functions over the past two years has been outreach and she visits numerous Veterans organizations, Ruritan groups, and churches in the community.

Ms Mogush will present information on the following topics:

1. Discussion on the cemeteries parameters.
2. Cemeteries pre-application process.
3. Grave/cremation site options.
4. Concrete outer burial container options.
5. Grave site, cremation site headstone's
6. Use of the cemeteries committal shelter.
7. Perpetual care for the state veterans cemetery.
8. \$300 administrative fee for the veterans spouse/eligible dependent.

WELCOME ABOARD

The Salute extends a hardy
welcome to:

**CAPT Matthew Streeter, USN (Ret.) and
his wife Virginia who live in Smithfield.**

**CWO4 Whitney Jones, USCG (Ret.) and his
wife Regina who live in Portsmouth.**

SENATE LEAVES DOC FIX IN DOUBT from MOAA Legislative Update 3/27/15

On Mar. 26, the House overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan measure by a vote of 392-37 that would permanently fix the flawed payment formula that provides payments to physicians who see Medicare patients. However, despite a marathon voting session in the Senate on Thursday, which lasted until the early hours of Friday morning, the chamber failed to bring the measure to a vote.

Legislators returned to their home districts as Congress adjourned for a two-week recess.

Without voting on a "doc fix" deal, physicians are scheduled to face a 21 percent cut in pay for treating Medicare patients on Apr. 1. Because TRICARE reimbursement rates are tied to Medicare's, the doc fix affects TRICARE beneficiaries of all ages.

Fortunately, due to an administrative lag time between when Medicare receives claims and when it actually makes payments, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services said if Congress acts soon after returning from recess, the government will be able to make payments to providers without imposing the pay cuts.

"Relying on administrative inefficiencies is no excuse for stalling," said Capt. Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret), deputy director for MOAA's Government Relations Department. "There's going to come a point where providers throw their hands up and stop seeing TRICARE and Medicare patients because there's just too much of a headache in dealing with the uncertainty of payments. Congress needs to find a permanent solution."

Senate leadership indicated that they would take up the bill once they return in April and expect quick passage. **Act now to send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message telling them to [stop the 21% Medicare-TRICARE cut.](#)**

Use the MOAA-suggested message below to urge your legislators to reverse this draconian cut and protect beneficiary health care access. Edit as desired.

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
388 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Stop the 21% Medicare-TRICARE Cut

Senator Kaine:

"I am writing to urge you to ensure Congress acts in time to stop the 21 percent cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors now scheduled to take effect in April 2015.

Such draconian cuts would cause large numbers of doctors to stop taking Medicare and military patients. Beneficiaries should not have to fear for their vital health coverage at the end of every year because of Congressional inaction.

The Congressional Budget Office recently lowered its estimate of the cost of a long term fix which makes a solution more attainable than ever.

Please do everything in your power to stop the 21 percent cut and change the statutory payment formula to avoid these ever-larger annual cuts.

Or

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING ITEMS FOR THE PORTSMOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR THE HOMELESS. They operate a 12 month Drop In Service Center where clients can shower, do laundry, receive their mail and use a telephone. Items like laundry detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, large Ziploc bags, etc. are much needed. Thank you.



DRIVERS AND RIDERS WANTED

PACMOAA always attempts to coordinate volunteer drivers and members needing transportation to various functions. Please, if you are able to pick up members or need a ride, contact Sherry Ferki or *The Salute* to meet these requirements. Thanks in advance.

CHAPLAINS CORNER by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT

My small unit was one of the very first to arrive in Sarajevo after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords. A day or two after our arrival, I began making the rounds, visiting the units in and around the city.

One of the American communications outfits I went to see and set up in an old Ottoman fort high on a mountaintop overlooking the city. The road to the fort was along a mountain path, barely passable in our humvee. At one point, the road squeezed between a sheer vertical drop on the left and a small village on the right. Absolutely pressed against the road, the tiny community was wedged into a minuscule space between the path and the wall of the mountain.

I was riding in the front side passenger seat of the Humvee with my arm out the window. In the arcane reasoning of the military, because we were part of an international force, the national flag emblem was affixed on the right shoulder of our BDUs (not on the left as was normally the case). Thus, the American flag was showing on the sleeve that was nearer the open window.

In the United States, there were - and still are - many mixed emotions about the mission in Bosnia. Some were shared by the troops who were sent there. But whatever our feelings, it became immediately clear that the people who appreciated us most were the very old and the very young. Our presence allowed the old people to live their lives in dignity and the young to play in the sunshine, and both groups were always grateful.

As our vehicle inched through the village, two elderly Muslim gentlemen were drinking tea at a small table set right next to the road. We were so close that as we inched by, one of them reached out and touched the flag on my arm and said something to me in very passable English.

I smiled at him and for the rest of the drive wondered at his words. When I returned to my quarters, I asked about the significance of the expression the old gentleman had spoken. It turned out he had used an ancient phrase - words with meaning so deep they were reserved for use in his culture only to express the most profound appreciation.

What the old man said when he touched the American flag was, "We will love you for a thousand years." FROM CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE VETERAN'S SOUL
What a comfort and blessing it would be to hear that from Americans. I was retired over 20 years before someone said, "Thank you for your service."

Left: COL Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret), PACMOAA President greets MOAA Guest Speaker, COL Cherie Zadlo, USAF (Ret.)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2015

FULL NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

GRADE/RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

STATUS: Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

Civilian Occupation: _____ MOAA Membership No. _____

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

PLEASE CIRCLE CORRECT AMOUNT: ANNUAL DUES ENCLOSED IS \$25.00 FOR REGULAR MEMBER OR \$20.00 FOR AUXILIARY MEMBER. Make checks payable to PACMOAA and send mail to:

PACMOAA, PO Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

NOTE: For members joining after 1 July, \$12.50 for regular members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members

From the left to right:

MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret). PACMOAA Secretary; CWO4 Karl Wilson, USA (Ret.) Board Member and Legislative Chair; MOAA Guest Speaker, COL Cherie Zadlo, USAF (Ret); and CAPT Tom Cahill, USCG (Ret) PACMOAA member



UPDATE ON PACMOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND, CHAIR

Since I took over the chairmanship of the Scholarship committee in 2001, PACMOAA has awarded 23 scholarships, 21 of which were paid. One student failed his school ROTC physical and one student dropped out of VMI the first week of school. One to two scholarships have been awarded each year, ranging from \$1000 to \$2000. The scholarship is awarded over the first two semesters in school and is contingent upon continued enrollment in ROTC. The money may be used for tuition purposes, room and board, and other school related expenses. *Unlike the MOAA scholarships, the students do not have to come for a military family.*

Packets with information pertaining to this scholarship will be going out to local high schools in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Franklin, Chesapeake, Southampton and Isle of Wight this week. That includes over 30 local high schools in addition to 13 JROTC units.

The number of scholarships to be awarded for the year is voted on at the February Board Meeting and is based on donations from PACMOAA members. Currently, PACMOAA members have donated about \$2000.00. We would like to award 2 scholarships for \$1500 each, if possible, but that means PACMOAA members need to continue to donate to the Scholarship fund!!

College expenses are increasing as are all other expenses. Please consider a donation to help these students in their quest for a career in the military. This can easily be done by adding \$10 or \$20 - or more - to your dues check or adding \$5 - or more - to your dinner check. All donations are greatly appreciated and most helpful! Thank you for your generous support over the years which have made our program so successful!

The scholarship winners and their parents will attend the June PACMOAA dinner meeting and be recognized there. It is always a pleasure to meet them and hear of their accomplishments in school as well as their goals.

UPDATE ON JROTC MOAA AWARDS, CHAIR

Every year a PACMOAA Leadership Team member attends the award ceremonies for the local JROTC groups covered by PACMOAA. There are 6 groups in Chesapeake (all Air Force JROTC), 3 in Portsmouth (1 each for Navy, Army and Marine Corps), 3 in Suffolk (all Air Force), and 1 in Franklin (Army) and 1 in Smithfield (Army). There is one ceremony for all the Chesapeake groups and the rest are individually held for a total of 9 ceremonies, if all groups have an award ceremony. Many affiliated military groups (like VFW, DAV, etc.) also attend the ceremonies. Hearing about all of the accomplishments of the JROTC award winners and seeing them in their uniforms is truly impressive. Please let me know if anyone is interested in attending any of these events.

Sherry

NOTE FROM INTERIM SALUTE EDITOR

As you can see, Gordon did not prepare this newsletter and I did not learn as much as I thought from the 2 1/2 hour tutorial he gave me a week ago. The simplified format Gordon set up for me was not as easy as I thought. Please bear with me and I'll try to do better next month.

Sherry