



SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024



**CHAPTER LUNCHEON
MEETING**

Thursday, January 18th

Rawlinson Hall--Paradise Valley Estates

Social 1100 hrs. Buffet Noon

Entree: Shrimp Fettucine Alfredo

Beverages: Coffee, Iced Tea, Water

Program: Col. Patricia Teranishi— Ret

Topic Arlington Cemetery

Cost: \$32 Cash or check only

Reservations: Call Phyllis Craig at

707-425-1332 NLT 12 Jan 2024

President's Report

Col Steve Vancil USAF-Ret

As we start 2024, I want to begin by thanking outgoing President, Bill Taylor, for leading our chapter for nearly two years. Bill answered the call and superbly led us through many challenges. That included resuming our monthly meeting schedule post Covid and coordinating a host of issues with our national and state MOAA leaders. I am honored that Bill is staying on our Board of Directors and will continue to work with legislative affairs.

We are now down to only five individuals serving on our board, and the other four have all been serving longer than me. Our prior bylaws indicated a minimum board size of 11 people (6 officers and 5 directors). The recently passed bylaws do not dictate that large a number, but we really could use help leading and supporting our chapter. We discovered that Earl Heal did an exceptional job for our chapter and is sorely missed in several areas.

The MOAA organization does ask us to do several things to include recruiting and reporting membership, community outreach, legislative advocacy, and helping our surviving spouses. I am open to considering an easier way to accommodate those who might be willing to assist rather than just via traditional board meetings.

We do have a great chapter. We are the third largest chapter in our state. We have many talented members with ages ranging from two active-duty officers in their 30s to several that are over 100. With a median age at around 86, we have a lot of "experience".

Other MOAA chapters and like-minded organizations are facing most of the same challenges that we see. But we are a wonderful organization with opportunities to help those who are currently serving in the military, or the many who previously served. We have opportunities to help ourselves and our families and build on professional friendships.

Membership Report:

While MOAA is a national organization, it is important to join a local chapter. MOAA national only lobbies at the federal level. Local chapters are fully responsible for lobbying at the state and local levels. Local chapters are also the grass roots network that gives the national organization real strength.

Our chapter is fighting inflation and keeping chapter dues at the bargain price of \$25/year for uniformed officers and \$10/year for surviving spouses. We do have chapter administrative expenses plus pay our own dues to the California Council. If you have not paid your 2024 dues, please settle with our Treasurer, Kari Sheffield. If you need, you can mail to our address: Solano County MOAA, P. O. Box 1443, Travis AFB, CA 94535.

You are considered overdue on dues if you have not paid by the end of March 2024.

Programs Report:

We still do not have a volunteer to take over managing our monthly meetings. In the interim, we have a lot of local talent. If you have a topic you can speak on, or know someone who would be an interesting speaker,

please contact one of our board members and help us continue our interesting monthly meetings.

We do have Paradise Valley Estates reserved for the third Thursday of the month throughout 2024 (except for our summer break of no meeting in July and August). Mark your calendars for our first quarter meetings on January 18, February 15, and March 21.

Further discussions with Paradise Valley Estates indicate that our lunch prices will not immediately increase in January. However, there is a good chance later in 2024 they will have to raise the lunch fee, primarily due to legislation that raised workers hourly wage in 2024.

Outreach Report:

As a reminder, last year Georgia DeBarr helped up coordinate a MOAA grant for \$1,000 providing support to local Veterans' housing. We thank Georgia for the initiative and fulfilled that grant by partnering with Change and New Beginnings.

This year we were awarded a \$2,000 grant to support military families at Travis AFB through the base's Military and Family Readiness Center. We have provided support in three areas.

First is base childcare. There is a critical shortage, particularly at affordable prices for junior enlisted families. Travis had their own initiative with volunteer military families opening their own home as childcare facilities. The base took care of state training and certification. We have helped the volunteer military families by paying part of the required startup liability insurance. So far, we have helped two provider families create 12 new childcare positions on base. Our program will attract two more provider families.

Second is support to military families with special needs dependents (normally children). We have supported a summer pool party, Fall Festival, and most recently a Holiday party. Our chapter members donated an additional \$370 at our monthly luncheons that bought 71 toys given with Santa at the Holiday party. Many of these families are junior enlisted, so we have bought gas cards to help them when they must drive to San Francisco for specialized medical care.

Third is personal financial readiness for some of the younger military personnel who face financial problems. We bought commissary gift cards for those who have gotten so short of funds they cannot buy food until the next payday. The program is using our commissary cards as an incentive to get the military members to come in for counselling and work on personal budgeting. Our current grant will conclude in April 2024.

Legislative Report:

The bill to exempt military Retirement pay, AB 46, is still alive and will be so through September 2024. It had strong legislative support without a single vote cast against it. It is currently held in the last of the five committees it faced (Senate Appropriations). With the looming budget deficit, the Governor had sent notice he would have to veto if the bill were sent forward to his office to become effective January

2024. The plan was to negotiate next year's budget (effective 2025) and then move forward to the Governor. That is still the plan, but the headwinds from the rapidly growing current deficit are causing delays with negotiations.

CalMOAA is now engaged with SB 770, a bill that the Governor signed. This bill requests a federal waiver allowing California to take federal health care money (Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, etc.) and use it to help create Universal Health Care in our state. If successful, there would no longer be any private health insurance in California. All healthcare would be managed by the state in some fashion. The federal funds would be a good start, but only pay about half of the expected expenses. Implementing Universal Health Care would most likely involve a Constitutional Amendment to create new taxes to pay for the full program.

Universal Health Care has a long road to ever become implemented. SB 770 is merely a first, but important step, on that road. CalMOAA wants to be at the table on the committee that is drafting the waiver request - ensuring that Tricare and VA medical benefits are protected. Cal MOAA has also reached out to MOAA national to engage since the waiver would be approved at the federal level.

Outgoing President's Comments Col Bill Taylor USAF-Ret

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and all are ready for 2024. As we enter the new year, the Board is seeking volunteers to fill vacant Officer and Director positions. We currently have vacancies in our Surviving Spouse, Outreach, Programs, Scholarship and ROTC positions. These positions are critical and we really need to fill them..

On the legislative front, Assemblyman Ramos is planning to discuss AB-46 in the governor's new budget. We don't know exactly what form the funding plan will take, but several Veterans' organizations are working to secure approval this year. In his report for this newsletter, Steve has provided an outstanding overview of the status of this bill during this year's budget deficit. Let's keep our fingers crossed and our email servers warmed up and ready to lobby the governor and our state legislators.

Finally, I'd like to close these comments by remembering Earl Heal who brought me into this organization when I succeeded him as the 60 MAW Deputy Commander for Air Transportation. He was a friend and mentor for 40 years. He is missed. I especially want to extend special thanks to Georgia DeBarr, Art Mark, and the members of our current board - Steve Vancil, Jackie Rock, Kari Sheffield, and Tom DiGiorgio who have been working so well together to insure the success of the Solano Chapter of CALMOAA. Thank you all for your support.

Happy Birthday

January

08 Lt. Col. Ruby B. Hardy, USAF (Ret)
16 Brig. Gen. Diann H. O'Connell,
USAF (Ret)
22 LCDR Robert E. Isherwood, USCG
(Ret)



February

02 Lt. Col. Terry J. Brust, USAF
(Ret)
04 Jean Kunkel, Surv Sp
05 Major Robert A. Meanza, USMC
(Ret)
07 Lt. Col. Henry J. Kogge, USAF
(Ret)
10 Capt. Guillermo Duldulao, USAF
(Ret)
17 Capt. Ellen M. Smith, USAF
(FORMER)
19 Mrs. Kathy D. Davis, Surv Sp
22 Col. Gerald Hall, USA (Ret)
27 Lt. Timothy D. Bates, USN (Ret)

Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP

Lt Col Tom Di Giorgio USAF-Ret

Success! Thanks to your very generous donations we can award three \$1500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Assist-A-Grad, a volunteer group from Fairfield, will process our applications to all Senior high schools in Solano County. In April, Assist-A-Grad will then send to us all completed applications from students who meet our criteria. This includes a requirement that the applicant desire to become a commissioned officer in any military service of the US. We will then schedule interviews to select the three applicants who meet our criteria. It is always a delight to hear these high achieving high school seniors relate their experiences and why they want to be military officers. You can volunteer to be an interviewer, which is usually held in late April. The date will be announced in our March/April newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

Norman Rees Captain USAF - Ret.

Survived by Mrs. Virginia Rees

SUNSHINE NOTICE

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing health issues and/or needs transportation or assistance, please notify our Sunshine Chairperson Ruby Hardy at 707-207-3080



CHAPTER WEB SITE

Chapter Home page & scheduled events link

<http://www.solanomoaa.org/>

For copies of all newsletters:

<http://www.solanomoaa.org/Newsletter>

Important: 2024 Chapter Dues should be paid now. \$25 for members and \$10 for surviving spouses. Please remit to MOAA P.O. Box 1443 Travis AFB 94535-1443

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Col. Stephen "Steve" Vancil USAF-Ret
707=416-6811 stevesanae@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Taylor USAF-Ret
707-290-2777

WWt95687@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT—Membership VACANT

PROGRAMS

Col. Stephen "Steve" Vancil USAF-Ret
707=416-6811 stevesanae@aol.com

SECRETARY

Lt Col Jackie Rock, USAF-Ret
707-422-6851

jsrockmsn@Yahoo.com

TREASURER

Ms. Karoline "Kari" Sheffield
707-426-4730

sheffieldus71@Yahoo.com

DIRECTORS

Lt. Col. Tom Di Giorgio, USAF-Ret
Tdigior536@aol.com 707-685-0947

Lt. Phyllis Craig, USA (Former)

707-425 1332

CHAIRS

Newsletter Publisher

Lt Col. Tom Di Giorgio, USAF-Ret
tdigior536@aol.com 707-685-0947

LEGISLATION

Col Wm. Bill Taylor USAF-Ret 707-290-2777

Wwt95687@sbcglobal.net

SCHOLARSHIP

Lt Col. Tom Di Giorgio, USAF-Ret
tdigior536@aol.com 707-685-0947

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON

Vacant

OUTREACH VACANT

RESERVATIONS

Lt. Phyllis Craig, USA (Former)
707-425.1332

CHAPLAIN Vacant

SUNSHINE

Lt Col Ruby Hardy, USAF-Ret
Buhar@aol.com 707-207-3080

CHAPTER TOPS LIAISON

Major Lynn Snyder, USAR 925-360-9529
snyderlynn@Gmail.com

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Maj Arthur " Art Mark" USMCR Ret
707-419-4271 majmarkarthur@hotmail.com

SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 1443

Travis AFB 94535-1443

SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER - MILITARY OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA									
Dues Payment, Information Change, and Application for Membership Form									
<input type="checkbox"/> Dues Payment			<input type="checkbox"/> Enroll Me as a New Regular Member						
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Change *			<input type="checkbox"/> Enroll Me as a Surviving Spouse Member						
				**					
LAST NAME		FIRST		MIDDLE		RANK		NAME OF SPOUSE	
STREET ADDRESS				APT #		CITY		STATE ZIP CODE	
E-MAIL ADDRESS				Yes No ***		PHONE #		Yes No ***	
DATE OF BIRTH			NAME OF DECEASED SPOUSE (AUX. MEMBERS ONLY) **				RANK		
MEMBER OF NATIONAL MOAA?			STATUS		SERVICE			COMMITTEE INTEREST	
Yes No			<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE OFFICER		<input type="checkbox"/> ARMY			<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTOR	
			<input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED OFFICER		<input type="checkbox"/> MARINE CORPS			<input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAMS	
IF YES, MOAA MEMBERSHIP #			<input type="checkbox"/> FORMER OFFICER		<input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD			<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP	
CHECK ENCLOSED:			<input type="checkbox"/> RESERVE OFFICER		<input type="checkbox"/> NAVY			<input type="checkbox"/> EDITOR	
REGULAR MEMBER - \$25			<input type="checkbox"/> MALE		<input type="checkbox"/> USPHS			<input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE	
SURVIVING SPOUSE - \$10			<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE		<input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE			<input type="checkbox"/> SUNSHINE	
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - \$XX					<input type="checkbox"/> NOAA			<input type="checkbox"/> SCHOLARSHIP	
TOTAL								<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	
NOTES:									
RENEWAL MEMBERS - COMPLETE ONLY NAME AND ANY INFORMATION THAT HAS CHANGED.									
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: TREASURER, SCC, MOAA, PO BOX 1443, TRAVIS AFB, CA 94533-0443									
* INFORMATION CHANGES WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.									
** AUXILLIARY MEMBERS ARE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED OFFICERS.									
*** CHECK "YES" TO PUBLISH IN MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY; CHECK "NO" IF FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.									