The Luke Chapter

NewsGram



Volume 32 Issue 7

Visit www.lukemoaa.org

April 2024

President's Message by Gene Wikle

Luke Chapter Accomplishments

Each year MOAA sponsors a Levels of Excellence Award



to recognize the outstanding service of a chapter. The standards set by MOAA to achieve the highest rating are high. The Luke Chapter has been awarded the highest rating, the Five Star Levels of Excellence Award, for 17 consecutive years.

Last month our chapter submitted our nomination for the 2023 award recognition. MOAA will make the award announcement soon. Our 2023 award nomination is a summary of all the great accomplishments you made to our chapter throughout 2023.

Our chapter excels at community service through our scholarship fund, JROTC awards program, veterans support program, Turkeys for Troops, charity fundraising, and other activities. We have an outstanding, nationally recognized surviving spouse program. We

Inside

pgs 2-3: Programs

pgs 5 - 6: Surviving Spouses

pg 6: New Mbrs

pg 7: Chaplain

pg 8: Vets

pg 16: Member App

pg 17: Dinner Res

+++++++++++++

This NewsGram is available by email or USPS mail.

have an award-winning chapter website and newsletter. Our monthly dinner programs provide outstanding speakers, fellowship, and great food.

We can be proud of our accomplishments.

Never Stop Serving!

Your Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are actively leading our chapter in a variety of programs, activities, and administrative tasks. Their

Coming Events

++++++++++++++ 11 April

West Vally Singers
Under the Direction of
Ted Faszer

Sounds of Spring

++++++++++++ 9 May

Rear Admiral Ronald D Tucker

The Challenges and Opportunities of Military Service

++++++++++++

Board Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month, September through May.

All members are welcome to attend.

The April Board Meeting will be held on ZOOM on 4 Apr at 2 PM.

Non-Board Members: Contact Mike Kramer for a ZOOM invite.

service has been outstanding. We continue to need more volunteers to serve on committees and assist with the various community service programs we support. Please contact me or one of our Board members to volunteer your services.

COMMUNITY FUND WINS BIG GRANT

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services awarded a grant of \$25,000 on 8 March to Luke Chapter Community Fund. The funds will be used to support our Veterans Relief Grant Program to pay overdue rent and mortgages, utilities, food relief, car repairs, etc. "We will split this grant between this and next fiscal year, to ease fund-raising pressure," said Ed McAvoy, President of Community Fund. The Board will provide further information as available.

Programs by Dennis DeFrain

11 April

West Vally Singers Under the Direction of Ted Faszer



Sounds of Spring

The West Valley Singers began in the Fall of 2016, as the smaller ensemble of the larger West Valley Chorale. The Chorale Board asked Ted Faszer (center front in photo next page) to recruit and organize a 20–25-member vocal ensemble to perform at community events to generate positive PR for, and to recruit members for the West Valley Chorale.

Because this event will take place in April 2024, there will be approximately 15 singers because many of their "snow birds" will have departed by that time.

The first Singers performance was at Grandview Terrace in 2016 and since that time they

have performed for banquets, service clubs, art gallery series, a hospital concert, a concert in the park, in rec centers, churches, and retirement communities.

The program chosen for the Luke Chapter MOAA – the Sounds of Spring -- will include patriotic numbers, spring themes, and love themes. Included will be choral pieces, interspersed with narration, solos, duets, and instrumental numbers.

9 May

Rear Admiral Ronald D. Tucker

The Challenges and Opportunities of Military Service

Rear Admiral Ron Tucker had a distinguished career as a Navy officer, and then as a mover and shaker for the Bechtel Corporation. After retiring from these important positions, he lived up to the MOAA motto of "Never Stop Serving," and made a big impact in his community. He will discuss his various "careers," and then outline for the Chap

LUKE CHAPTER MOAA 2022-2023 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

MAJ Gene Wikle, USAF (R) 480-352-4575

1st VICE PRES/LDRSHIP SUCCESSION

COL Stephen Pohl, USAFR (R) 425-290-2471

2nd VICE PRESIDENT/PERSONAL AFFAIRS

CWO3 Don Fordney, USN (F) 206-595-6543

SECRETARY/Compliance Director

COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 720-563-9953

TREASURER
Jack Coate 916-960-6820

DIRECTORS/COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

SURVIVING SPOUSES LIAISON CO-CHAIRS SSp Linda Wolverton 623-505-7244 Rosemary Eaton 303-521-7956 LEGISLATION (Acting) MAJ Gene Wikle, USAF (R) 480-352-4575 COMPLIANCE/VETERAN SUPPORT COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 623-234-4785 PERSONAL AFFAIRS **TBD** TRANSITION OFFICER CAPT Bob Cowan, USN (R) 623-266-1426 HOSPITALITY CAPT Bob Cowan, USN (R) 623-266-1426 JROTC LIAISON LTC Bill McCamley, USAF (R) 928-714-0274 **MEMBERSHIP** 1LT Ben Hayes, USA (F) 323-791-2755 SCHOLARSHIP CWO3 Don Fordney USN (F) 206-595-6543 **NEWSGRAM EDITOR** LTC Scott Phillips, USAF (R) 623-340-9158 HISTORIAN LTC Fred Williams, USAF (R) 703-402-1815 COMMUNITY & LUKE AFB RELATIONS COL Ted Stults, USA (R) 330-353-2367 CHAPLAIN MAJ Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF (R) 623-975-2362 WEBMASTER LTC Bob Nelson, USMC (R) 719-322-4130 **DIRECTORS AT LARGE** COL Jerry Wojtas, USA (R) 623-544-4477 Mrs Pam Wojtas 623-544-4477 MAJ Robert Kosmal, USAR (R) 623-850-1219 LTGEN John Regni, USAF (R) 623-935-6433 PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY FUND BOARD

The **NewsGram** is published monthly from October through May by and for the members of Luke Chapter, MOAA. The Chapter is affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America and the Arizona Council of Chapters. *The Chapter provides non-partisan support for active-duty military & veterans and their families.*

LTC Dennis DeFrain, USA (R) 623-451-9552

LTC Nicholas Knight, USMC (R) 928-287-9915

PRESIDENT, AZ COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

480-387-0293

LTC Ed McAvoy, USAF (R)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT





West Valley Singers

ter scholarship winners what it takes to serve their country and their community.

Admiral Tucker was born in Santa Monica, California. He graduated from Cal State Northridge in 1963 and was commissioned upon graduation through ROTC.

During his Navy career, he commanded the Guided Missile Destroyer, USS Cochrane, the U.S. Naval Station in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Battleship USS New Jersey, and Task Force 73 and Logistics Group, U.S. Seventh Fleet in Singapore.

Ashore he had important and demanding assignments on the Navy staff in the Pentagon. He is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College.

Following his Navy career, Admiral Tucker joined the Bechtel Corporation. He served Bechtel as Vice President for Asia Pacific Region Management in Hong Kong, General Manager of Bechtel's Phoenix Service Center, and Bechtel's Country Manager in Japan.

Admiral Tucker retired in October 2003, to Anthem, AZ where he has been very active in community, veteran, and charitable endeavors.

In 2009 he led a project that built an award-winning veterans memorial in Anthem. The memorial's five white pillars represent the nation's military branches, and each pillar has an elliptical opening that slants downward toward the Great Seal of the United States. On Veterans Day – 11 November -

LUKE CHAPTER COMMUNITY FUND 2022-2023 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN

LTC Ed McAvoy, USA (R) 480-387-0293 VICE PRESIDENT

CWO3 Don Fordney, USN (F) 206-585-8543 ACTING SECRETARY

COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 720-563-53

TREASURER/DIRECTOR

Jack Coate 916-960-6820

COMPLIANCE/DIRECTOR

COL Mike Kramer, USAFR (R) 720-563-9953

CHAPLAIN

Rev MAJ Fannalou Guggisberg, USAF (R) 623-975-2362

DIRECTORS

COL Beth Johnson, USA (R) 703-405-0347
RDML Steve Kunkle, USN (R) 623-243-6433
COL Lou Tronzo, USAF (R) 623-208-8899
CWO2 Ron Walk, USA (F) 856-418-8325
Mrs Pam Wojtas 623-544-4477
MAJ Mike Byers, USAF (R) 623-606-5288
LTC Wyck Furcron, USAF (R) 703-615-0973



– the design allows the sun's rays to spotlight the Great Seal at 11:11 am Mountain Standard Time. In 2012 Admiral Tucker was inducted into the Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame.



Admiral Tucker



Anthem Veterans Memorial

Discover (Award-Winning

Assisted Living and Memory Care

"Sun City West Assisted Living is a hidden gem! The staff is very efficient, kind, and compassionate. It feels like home!"

- Family Member Review, A Place for Mom



- Pet-friendly apartments
- Daily social activities
- Wellness programs
- Chef-prepared meals
- Personalized assisted living
- Evidence-based memory care program
- Four Sun City West recreation centers
- Seven golf courses



Sun City West
Assisted Living

Call (623) 244-7594 and arrange a tour!









(623) 244-7594 13810 W Sandridge Dr, Sun City West, AZ 85375





金品



Grieving the loss of someone close to you?

Find comfort and support at GriefShare in Goodyear or near you.

Contact
CAROL PHILLIPS
623-340-9205
cphillips02@cox.net

13-week seminar/support group You can join at any time. www.griefshare.org



Surviving Spouses by Linda Wolverton, Rosemary Eaton. Susan Bergstrom, & Marilu Trainor











LEGISLATION UPDATE:

LOSS OF YOUR MILITARY SPOUSE AND FINANCES

As a follow up to last month's NewsGram article, the form "Claim For Unpaid Compensation Of Deceased Member Of The Uniformed Services" has now been posted to the Luke Chapter website - Luke-MOAA.Org / Programs - Casualty Assistance.

5.2% Pay Raises are on the way for active-duty personnel. The DOD reports that both the House and Senate have passed the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, which is expected to be signed by the president. Among other things, the bill authorizes a pay raise for both service members and civilian defense employees.

"This important legislation also directly invests in America's national security and military power projection to meet the challenges of the 21st century," said Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder.

New Legislation H.R. 3232/S. 1588, the Respect for Grieving Military Families Act, was submitted to Congress in May 2023. The bill is still alive, however other priorities have placed it second on the list. When the bill is passed, this will alleviate the need for the surviving spouse to complete the form herein described. As of this date the bill is still pending.

In the meantime, access the form and follow the guidance. If you need help, contact Linda Wolverton at 214-986-0637.



OUTREACH -- WHAT'S NEW?

Linda Wolverton will attend the Coronado Chapter of MOAA member meeting on 21 March. There she will provide an overview of Luke Chapter Surviving Spouse MOAA's Program and answer any questions that they may have. Hard and soft copies of our Mission Statement, annual Goals and Objectives, our 6 October seminar on Care Giving booklet, and an overview of our website will be shared.

There will also be a meeting the next morning with the current Chapter President, Immediate Past President, and the Chapter's SS Liaison. At the end, we will both be better for the collaboration.



The 7 February Surviving Spouse Luncheon hosted speaker LCDR Jodie Heinz, LCDR. Heinz US Navy. shared with the members how she entered the military service. She spoke French growing up, having a father who was French Canadian and an Italian mother. She went to college in the 1970's and afterward looked for a job. She searched for a while, but jobs were at a premium since all of the veterans from Vietnam had come home and were also seeking jobs.

She ended up in a Navy recruiting office. She entered and signed up. She went to OCS in Newport, RI for 16 weeks. Jodie ended up managing a 10-man maintenance crew - the only woman in the maintenance department in Kingsville Naval Air Station, TX.

She was then assigned to EUCOM in Stuttgart Germany where they made use of her language capabilities. This was during the time of the overthrow of the Shah of Iran.

Jodie was transferred, where she then supported SECNAV. She was the White House Liaison officer, answering President Carter's correspondence. This was a big duty in that all responses were done by long hand. (No desk-top computers at the time).

After several years, she was transferred to CINCPAC (Hawaii) as the Protocol Officer. During this time, her duties were to arrange for travel and meetings for different VIPs (James Michener's wife, Rich Armitage – who played on the TV show as Young Sheldon's grandfather, and the island itinerary for Imelda Marcos). Her role was to facilitate travel or attendance at Naval functions, such as the Army Navy Game, or any other meetings/travel required by the Na-Vy.

She was then transferred to the National Security Agency (NSA) at Monterey, CA. This office delivers advanced education and research to promote the security of the United States and its allies and enhances the effectiveness of the U.S. Navy. All the while she attended the Naval Postgraduate School there.

Her last assignment was in Detroit, Michigan, as the Executive Officer of Recruiting; where she met her love, Jerry. Jerry was a Coast Guard search and rescue pilot, an off-the-chart extrovert, salt of the earth, and highly principled man. He graduated from the Coast Guard Academy and spent 30 years in the CG. Sadly, they were only married

for 16 wonderful years. Jodie has 2 terrific step kids and 6 grandchildren.

She was honorably discharged after 11 years of service.



YOU AND I

The LAST SURVIVING SPOUSE LUNCHEON MEET-ING OF THE YEAR is 3 APRIL.

Our group has been invited to visit Thunderbird II on 3 April. Did you ever wonder how Thunderbird Rd. got its name? We have quite an event planned for us. Information was sent to all members by email and USPS. We will also send maps, if needed. If you have a problem with driving, let us know and we will

1030 Arrive - we will meet each other in the parking lot near the building.

The Memorial tour will be very short – outside

1045 Memorial tour inside

1100 Stearman/ Thunderbird Room for a Presentation (45 min), 2nd floor of building (chairs / table are there) (there are elevators)

1145 Q&A

1200 lunch at Volantis (menu is \$10.00 - \$15.00)

see if we cannot help out.

Please RSVP by 25 March

Linda Wolverton – 623 505 7244 OR Ltcolphillip@gmail.com

Your SSp Leaders:

Linda Wolverton
623-505-7244
Itcolphillip@gmail.com
Rosemary Eaton
303-521-7956
eatonrosemary@gmail.com
Susan Bergstrom
623-853-737
Bergstromkarl@msn.com
Marilu Trainor – Editor
303-907-6627
marilu01@msn.com



New Member Bob Braun Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

MAJ Robert Braun, USA (Fmr)

COL Gerald Jenson, USMC (Ret), and his wife, Sheri

LTC Donald Noteboom, USA (Ret), and his wife, Janice

Welcome!

Chaplain's Corner by Rev. Fannalou Guggísberg

Were you to compose a set of personal beliefs, what would yours look like? Here's what one person wrote:



"I believe in the supreme worth of the individual, and in his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.

"I believe that the law was made for man and not man for the law; that government is the servant of the people and not their master.

"I believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living.

"I believe that thrift is essential to well ordered living and that economy is a prime requisite of a sound financial structure, whether in government, business, or personal affairs.

"I believe that truth and justice are fundamental to an enduring social order.

"I believe in the sacredness of a promise, that a man's word should be as good as his bond; that character — not wealth or power or position — is of supreme worth. "I believe that rendering useful service is mankind's common duty and that only in the purifying fire of sacrifice is the dross of selfishness consumed and the greatness of the human soul set free.

"I believe in an all-wise and allloving God, named by whatever name, and that the individual's highest fulfillment, greatest happiness, and widest usefulness are to be found in living in harmony with His will.

"I believe that love is the greatest thing in the world; that it alone can overcome hate; that right can and will triumph over might."

--John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Keep looking up!

REMINDER

April, and May dinners will be at Grandview Terrace.

Progress Report on Donations

by Ed McAvoy President Community Fund

MOAA Luke Chapter members help veterans with basic needs like paying rent, keeping the lights on,



and repairing a car so that they can get to work. You are also helping 24 students with scholarships.

With your support we are achieving our goals. First, we received a \$25,000 grant from the Arizona Veterans' Donation Fund and \$5,000 from MOAA. Second, you and your MOAA friends, and businesses provide cash donations. Third, at the April dinner we have a silent auction.

At our March dinner we gathered names from you of businesses you use to buy goods and services. Then Community Fund Board members, with your permission, will contact businesses on your behalf to request cash donations.

For our silent auction in April, please donate items that have a value of \$50 or more. Email Ed McAvov at edgar.mcavov@gmail.com with information about your items which will be stored at Mike Kramer's and Fannalou's home until the April dinner meeting.

For cash contributions make checks payable to Luke Chapter Community Fund and mail to: PO Box 5072, Sun City West, AZ 85376 or give your checks to our Treasurer, Jack Coate, during our dinners. Give online at www.lukemoaa.org/donate consider donating monthly by PayPal. Our Community Fund has no overhead and 100% of your contributions help veterans and provide scholarships. Your donations are tax deductible in Arizona.

Helping Needy Vets by Mike Kramer, Veterans Relief Committee Chair

Luke Chapter Keeps Debt Auction Away and Electricity Going



Your donations helped a severely ill and bedridden veteran avoid the auction sale of his personal goods in storage. You also kept the electric power flowing for an elderly disabled veteran and his wife. They are all very grateful to Luke Chapter for this support.



'Arnold'

'Arnold' entered the US Air Force in 1980. He was assigned to the Security Police, and for a while he "counted rivets on the B-52s." Due to an injury, he cross-trained to be a weather technician. Arnold served on active duty for eleven years until December 1991. He was decorated with numerous awards and decorations during his service. Arnold served in-theatre during Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield for about six months.

He was Honorably discharged after 11 years of service.

Arnold has dealt with chronic intestinal illness since 2020, making it progressively more difficult to work and maintain stable housing. For the past two years, he has had little regular income and has lived with his brother. His storage unit threatened the auction sale of his stored personal property on account of two missed payments. We paid \$504 for the past bill and we paid March 'forward'. Arnold is now housed in a VA rehab facility.

Arnold wrote, "I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the grant provided by...Luke Chapter and MOAA. Your generosity will have a significant impact on my life, and I am truly grateful. ... Your kindness and commitment to supporting fellow veterans exemplify the spirit of camaraderie within [MOAA]. Please convey my thanks to your entire team...I am deeply appreciative."



'Marvin'

'Marvin' and wife 'Ethel' recently had their electricity turned off when they fell three months behind on their bills. Their house heater is broken. Using an electric space heater, they currently owe nearly \$2,000. Their VSO counselor quickly called and got the power resumed due to 'disability'. She then helped Marvin complete a grant application to Luke Chapter.

Marvin enlisted in the US Marine Corps on active duty from 1965-68 as a combat engineer. After basic and specialty training, Marvin was posted to Marine Base Iwo Jima. With his comrades, Marvin helped with many base construction projects. This was at the height of the Vietnam War. His unit "packed and crated" a squadron of Marine helicopters and spare parts. They delivered them to Marine base Qui Hai, south of Da Nang. Marvin was promoted to E-4 in only three years before his Honorable Discharge, with excellent duty performance.

Marvin is now 78 years old. He and wife live on about \$2,000 per month from Social Security and a small VA Agent Orange disability stipend. Recently, they simply could not pay all their household and utility bills and fell behind. Luke Chapter awarded a grant of \$2,500 to pay the past due electric and other bills.

Luke Chapter, you made a <u>big</u> <u>difference</u> in the lives of these veterans.

We Never Stop Serving

Ceremony and Concert to Honor Military and Veteran Women

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 3 pm to 6 pm Madison Center for the Arts 5601 N. 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ Hosted by Veterans First Ltd.

Veterans, families, friends, and the public are invited to help make this a great day of celebration. The program starts with a ceremony recognizing women who served from World War II through the Global War on Terror, including Rosie the Riveters. Guest speakers include leaders from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and the Women Veteran Program of the Phoenix VA Medical Center. Universal Artist Jeff Senour and the Called to Serve band will perform the "Freedom Rock Experience." Jeff Senour and CTS have made it their mission to honor our Military, Veterans and First Responders who place others before self.

TO OBTAIN TICKETS:

 Tickets for Veterans, family, friends, and the public: https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/19005F75AF3914BB

Military and Veteran Women are eligible to register (before Mar 9, 2024) for a FREE complimentary ticket at: https://forms.gle/bqE9wNeWqqmcLgM17

Sponsorships available! Please contact: Darlene Gonzales, USN (ret) at dgonza-les@veteransfirstltd.org

Veterans First Ltd has served veterans in Arizona since 2003. For more information, go to https://veteransfirstltd.org/news/



Dr. Eduardo Pagán speaking at our March dinner.

WOW!

Dinner is only \$33 in April and May!

What a deal!

SPECIAL NOTICE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

In accordance with Luke Chapter Bylaws, Members please take notice that the Chapter Annual Meeting will take place during our regular Chapter dinner and program on Thursday, 11 April 2024. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to provide a brief report on activities, events, and accomplishments of the Chapter, announcement of dues, and to elect primary officers and directors to the Board of Directors. Each Regular Member and Surviving Spouse Member may vote in the election. A quorum of twenty percent (20%) of the total membership must be present for the election. A copy of the draft minutes of the Annual Meeting in April 2023 is available on request from Mike Kramer, Secretary. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Legislative Affairs

Excerpted from The Canyon Echo with permission from Col Tom Waddell

Col Waddell is the Legislative Liaison for the Grand Canyon Chapter and the Legislative Chair for the AZ Council of Chapters.

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

SB1413: Income Tax; Subtraction; Uniformed Services (providing active duty pay parity to all uniformed service members) has passed the Senate Finance and Commerce Committee and the Rules Committee in addition to being approved by both the Senate Democratic and Republican Caucuses. It should soon pass the Senate and be forwarded to the house.

The passing of SB1413 is the number one legislative priority for MOAA-AZ. Now is the time to contact our House Representatives and ask them to support SB1413 when it comes over from the Senate.

A similar bill failed to pass last session when the House did not approve it in committee.

Please see the suggested letter on the next page; use it as an example and feel free to personalize it as you see fit, then cut and paste it to the email you send to your representative.

Grassroots advocacy works and thanks for supporting

our legislative efforts both here in Arizona and in Washington. Keep up the great work!!

LUKE AIR SHOW







SB1413 SUPPORT LTR TO AZ HOUSE MEMBERS

Dear Representative (Name)

As an Arizona veteran, I am asking you to support SB1413, Income Tax, Subtraction, Uniformed Services. SB1413 will soon be moved to the House and will amend ARS Section 43-1022 (11). SB1413 had overwhelming support in the Senate and now needs the full support of the House.

Currently, ARS Section 43-1022 (11) excludes the active duty pay of members of the armed services from state income tax but fails to provide the same exclusion for US Public Health Service (USPHS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officers who are proud members of the uniformed services. This contrasts with ARS Section 43-1022 (26) which excludes the retired pay of members of the uniformed services, which includes USPHS and NOAA officers, from Arizona state income tax. SB1413 would correct this disparity by changing the language of ARS Section 43-1022 (11) from armed services to uniformed services.

There are approximately 450 USPHS and 10 NOAA commissioned officers serving in Arizona. The USPHS officers provide critical health and medical services to our Native American population through service with the Indian Health Service throughout Arizona. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring, NOAA officers provide products and services that support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. These dedicated men and women work tirelessly in service to our great nation. In addition, USPHS and NOAA officers can be called to serve with the armed services during a national emergency.

A similar bill, SB1375, passed the Senate last session but failed to be assigned to a committee in the House. Please help ensure that SB1413 is assigned to the appropriate committee and receives the full support of the House, as it should. Thank you for your continued support of those who are serving and have served this great nation as members of the Uniformed Services. Sincerely,

[If you would like a copy of this draft letter in Word, contact your Editor at sphillipsaz@cox.net.]



I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.



Board Briefs

by Mike Kramer, Secretary and Compliance Director

Luke Chapter and Community Fund-February/March 2024 Board Meetings



- The current financial assets of Luke Chapter on February 29 are \$37,735, of which \$16,418 is unrestricted equity. The Chapter is holding close to budget, said Jack Coate, Treasurer. Assets of Community Fund stand at \$63,318.
- Ben Hayes reported that Luke Chapter has 160 active Members on our roster, including 128 Regular Members and 33 Surviving Spouses, with 4 Honorary Members. The active member number fell from 192 from two years ago, due to deaths, moves, aging and other reasons, as offset by new members.
- Ed McAvoy said that no 'on-line auction' will be held this year. Instead, a silent auction of do-

LUKE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Regular 130 Surviving Spouses 32 Honorary 4 TOTAL: 166

- nated items with more than \$50 value will be held at the April Annual Members dinner. Members are urged to provide names and contact information for business leaders in the community as potential donors.
- Linda Wolverton said that on 3 April, the Surviving Spouses will visit Scottsdale Airport and Air Museum, formerly a WWII Army Air Force training base.
- the Community Fund Board needs a Secretary. Luke Chapter needs a Legislative Liaison, and directors for Personal Affairs, Reservations, and Nominating Committee Chair. Contact Gene or Steve to learn about these open positions.
- Luke Chapter submitted its nominations for 2023 Levels of Excellence and Harris Communications awards for the NewsGram and Website. Linda Wolverton was nominated to national MOAA as the Outstanding SS Liaison for 2023.
- The Veterans Relief Grant Program has made 13 emergency grants so far to veterans which total about \$21,174. We submitted a grant application to MOAA for FY 2024-25

- for \$5,000. We will know soon about a grant application to the AZ Dept of Veterans' Services for \$25,000.
- Don Fordney has received six scholarship grant applications from college bound students.
 He expects more than 20 applications by the deadline on 16 March.
- Bill and Sue McCamley are contacting the West Valley JROTC high school class instructors to prepare for spring presentations to the students.

March Raffle Winners



Ferrero Rocher Bonnie Robinett

> Baklavas Ed Becker

8-piece Knife Set Stan Zeitz

Taylor Fladgate 10-year Port Susan McCamley

Set of 6 "Veteran" Coasters
Mike Kramer

Anthon Berg
Chocolate Liqueurs
Gracie Greenwald

Congrats!









VISIT: www.moaa.org/takeaction

Chapter member Fred Williams submitted the HLAA Convention notice below.

He highly recommends it.



Do you have a hearing loss and would like to communicate better? We are HLAA and we can help.

Join us for our national 2024 convention at the Wild Horse Pass Sheraton Resort Hotel from 27-29 June 2024.

- Free Exhibit Hall-only passes are available at the convention door.
- See product demonstrations of the cutting-edge technology for people with hearing loss.
- Meet hearing health industry professionals and technical experts.

Veterans, visiting a first convention, can attend the full convention free and attend educational workshops on a wide range of topics.

- To get registered, contact Melissa Kruse: mkruse@hearingloss.org.
- This is a rare opportunity to get a lot of information in one place.

For more details, visit the HLAA web and convention site at: hearingloss.org/convention.



Ed Becker Wins Sweets for Sharon!





Linda Wolverton recognizing Pat Williams for her Surviving Spouse Support



Sue Wins Again This Month!

HOW TO ENROLL IN FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS LUKE CHAPTER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS -- PLEASE READ

TO ENROLL:

- 1. go to www.frysfood.com/account/
- 2. Enter your user ID and password to open your account; or
- 3. If you don't have a Fry's account card, follow the instructions to get an account, and then continue;
- 4. On the "My Account" page, scroll down to the box called: Community Rewards;
- 5. Enter the name of "Luke Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund" or enter our Organization Number: TK860;
- 6. Press the "Enroll" button; congratulations, you are done!

NOTE:

- Your participation in this program will automatically create modest donations which accumulate into our IRS 501(c)(3), public charity, Luke Chapter MOAA Community Fund, Inc. (EIN: 47-4053737). Frys pays us quarterly with a check made out to our checking account.
- There is no cost or charge to you. The donation by Fry's is from their profit and is not an extra charge to you and is not added to product prices. The donations are 'free money' supporting our Community Fund charities: the scholarships, veterans' relief, and JROTC programs in local high schools.
- Please shop & gas up occasionally at Fry's/Fred Meyer/Kroger stores.
- Thank you for supporting your Luke Chapter MOAA charities!



Membership Information

Dues are \$25 per year for Member and \$15 per year for Surviving Spouses

Make checks payable to "Luke Chapter MOAA" and mail to:

Luke Chapter MOAA P.O. Box 5072 Sun City West, AZ 85376-5072

Contact Info

For more information about the Luke

Chapter, contact Membership Chair:

email: Membership@lukemoaa.org

or

visit our website at

www.LukeMOAA.org

RESERVATION FORM (NEXT PAGE)

PLEASE mail your reservation so that it will be received by the date indicated. If you are running late, CALL the Fordneys (1-206-595-6543) by that date to tell them "The check is in the mail." or "I'll pay at the door." We must provide an accurate count and stick to it.

April and May dinners are \$33.

Membership Application

LAST NAME:
FIRST NAME:
MI or GO BY:
RANK & SERVICE:
ACTIVE, RESERVES, NATIONAL GUARD, or SURVIVING SPOUSE? (circle one)
ACTIVE, FORMER, or RETIRED? (circle one)
SERVED FROM: (m/y) TO:
DATE of BIRTH: (m/d/y)
SPOUSE :
ADDRESS:
CITY:ZIP:
CITY:ZIP: PHONE:
CITY:ZIP: PHONE: EMAIL: NEWSGRAM (monthly newsletter):
CITY:ZIP: PHONE: EMAIL: NEWSGRAM (monthly newsletter): USPS Mail or EMAIL (circle one) MOAA National Member? YES / NO
CITY:ZIP: PHONE: EMAIL: NEWSGRAM (monthly newsletter): USPS Mail or EMAIL (circle one) MOAA National Member? YES / NO If "YES", MOAA #: If "NO", your Chapter membership includes an automatic enrollment in the Basic (Free)

MENU

Grilled Mahi Mahi w/
Lemon Wedge & Tartar
OR
Half Rack BBQ Baby Back
Ribs
OR

Cheese Tortellini w/Sauteed Veggies

Spinach Salad
Candied Roasted Sweet
Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Rolls & Butter
Flourless Chocolate Cake
Coffee, Iced Tea, Water

\$33.00

(Price includes taxes, tips, & closed captioning.)

Grandview Terrace

11 Apr 2024

Social – 5:00 p.m. Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Program – 7:00 p.m.

MENU

Chicken Alfredo w/ Ravioli
OR
6-oz Grilled Beef Filet
OR
Eggplant Parmesan

Garden Salad Roasted Red Potatoes Veggie Medley Rolls & Butter New York Cheesecake w/ Berries Coffee, Tea, Water

\$33.00 (Price includes taxes, tips, & closed captioning.)

Grandview Terrace

9 May 2024

Social – 5:00 p.m. Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Program – 7:00 p.m.

11 Apr 2024 Dinner Reservation at Grandview Terrace Register ONLINE or make checks payable to Luke Chapter MOAA. Return to: Luke Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 5072, SCW, AZ 85376
For questions and information, call Don & Maureen Fordney at 1-206-595-6543. Please mail to REACH Co-Treasurer no later than 5PM, 3 Apr
Request dinner reservations for Thursday evening, 11 Apr 2024, at Grandview Terrace. My Check for \$ is enclosed.
People Reserve table for (3 to 8) people. Sitting at my table (including me):
Number of Mahi Ribs Tortellini
I(TABLE HOST)
<u> </u>
<u>i</u>
<u> </u>
Member Name (Printed):
Member Signature:

9 May 2024 Dinner Reservation at Grandview Terrace

Register ONLINE <u>or</u> make checks payable to Luke Chapter MOAA. Return to: Luke Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 5072, SCW, AZ 85376

For questions and information, call Don & Maureen Fordney at 1-206-595-6543.

Please mail to REACH Co-Treasurer no later than 5PM, 1 May

riease mail to NEACH Co-Heasurer no later than 3rm, 1 may
Request dinner reservations for Thursday evening, 9 May 2024, at Grandview Terrace. My Check for \$ is enclosed.
[] Reserve table for (3 to 8) people. Sitting at my table (including me):
Number of \square Chicken \square Beef Filet \square Eggplant
(TABLE HOST)
Member Name (Printed):
Member Signature:

Luke Chapter P.O Box 5072 Sun City West, AZ 85376



Never Stop Serving

The Military Officers Association of America is a nonprofit veteran's association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to anyone who holds or has ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses. For membership information, please call 623-340-



Show your colors by proudly displaying the Arizona "Veteran Plate" on your vehicle. Show how veterans

help veterans.



Sun Health Communities offers a vibrant and carefree lifestyle through our three Life Plan Communities and an exceptional Sun Health At Home® program for those looking to continue living independently wherever they call home.

SunHealthCommunities.org (623) 537-7540 鱼点





APPLY

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

