

Alameda Chapter Express



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Dates to Remember – Be There

14 November – Special Speaker and Election of 2019 Officers

8 December – Chapter Holiday Party- Elks Lodge, Alameda

President’s Notes

Tulio Acquistapace

November is truly a time of Thanksgiving. On the 11th we observe and honor our military – past and present on Veterans Day. Many communities have special events to take time and reflect on the many who sacrificed so much to keep the United States strong and a leader of the Free World. This is also the day that the Great War – World War I ended. Our speaker this month will cover the beginning to end of WWI and the lasting influence it had on our country and the world. We cannot forget that on the 10th of November marks the day that the US Marine Corps was established.

The traditional Thanksgiving Day is a unique time for Americans to be thankful for all we have and reminds us what peace and freedom means to all of us. Be thankful and show your appreciation and share our good fortune with your family, friends, neighbors and those less fortunate. We should also be proud to be members of a great organization- MOAA and all it does for those who serve and have served this great country.

Schedule of Events

See all scheduled meetings on chapter website [HERE](#).

Board of Directors Meetings

2018 BOD Meetings in Chiefs’ Mess, Building 4, Coast Guard Island, 1030 to 1200:

6 November	4 December
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Chapter Member and Wife

Involved in Serious Auto Accident

Tulio Acquistapace

One of our active chapter members, BG Chester Ward, MC, US Army, Retired and wife

Sally Ward were involved in a serious auto accident-driving south on Hwy 101 near the town of Greenfield the Wards were hit by an 18wheel truck causing extremely serious injuries on October 9th. The “jaws of life” were needed to extract Chester from his automobile. He suffered a broken back and Sally has a broken neck. After initial treatment at a Salinas hospital both are now recovering at their retirement community in Union City. They have a long but positive recovery period and our get well wishes go out to them. General Ward has been very active with the chapter-attending many of our meetings, was a speaker at one of our general meetings relating his experiences as the White House physician, represents the chapter in presenting Scholarship Awards at UC Berkeley Army ROTC recipients and has been responsible in recruiting several members of his retirement community in cruising on our Potomac Bay Cruises. We look forward to their complete recovery and seeing them at a future meeting.

This is a reminder that any member of the board of directors should be contacted when any of our members have a serious health issue. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Update on BG Chester Ward and wife Sally – both have returned to their retirement community in Union City. Chester is in the Skilled Nursing Facility portion of Acacia Creek and facing a long recovery from his broken back. Sally is back in their apartment and in a neck brace and being cared for by their daughter and the retirement community. I will send a get well card on behalf of the chapter and if you want to send your own message here’s the info:

BG Chester Ward and Sally Ward, 34400A Mission Blvd, Unit 1417, Union City, Ca. 94587

Past President’s Notes

Geoff Kline

“How the West Was Won”, the 1962 movie which gave viewers a concise history of how

people moved to the Western United States and how it was settled in the 1800’s, left the impression that it was wagon trains and the railroad which were most important in this migration of civilization. The covered wagon actually carried little overall cargo, and the railroads did not come into prominence until the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. It was the river system which opened the West more than other transportation mode, and the Missouri River and its tributaries, between St. Louis and the Rocky Mountains, was the mover of this shift of settlers and adventure seekers.

The Big Muddy, as it was called, played a strategic role in moving people to the goldfields of Montana, the prairies of Nebraska and the Dakotas, and the vastness of Wyoming and Colorado. It also helped move troops when the Army undertook the campaign of the Indian Wars.

The first boats to penetrate the wilderness were canoes or keelboats, which gave way to the steamboat and its increased carrying capacity for freight and passengers. The promise of gold and furs helped open the Rocky Mountains, with settlers eventually moving to the Pacific Ocean and California.

Steamers routinely encountered sand bars, downed trees, and uncharted islets throughout the journey. Many were wrecked or grounded, a number blew up because of their unreliability of the steam plants which powered them. The stern-wheelers and side-wheelers started to decline in the late 1800’s when increased railroad trackage linked remote ports and settlements with the rest of the nation. The West had been tamed in large part by the rivermen who opened up the Frontier through their efforts.

Personal Affairs

Bill Garcia

This is a repeat of last month’s article.

You may have already received this info from TRICARE - TRICARE Retiree Dental Program ends December 31, 2018.

If you are enrolled in or eligible for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program or TRICARE Retired Reserve now what? You may qualify for Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) for 2019 - now including DENTAL AND/OR VISION.

Get ready: You may enroll during open season - from November 12 through December 10, 2018 - visit tricare.benefeds.com to learn more about FEDVIP open season and sign up for email alerts.

2018 Membership Update For November

Jerry Jacobs

This Month's Newsletter includes a 2019 Membership Application and/or renewal for the Alameda Chapter. This gives the membership a head start for 2019. Several members find it convenient to pay a number of years in advance.

The Alameda Chapter now has 90 Regular Members; 3 Spouses and 13 Surviving Spouses for a Total membership of 106. Plus 4 Active Duty Personnel members. A thank you for all the efforts of our membership to invite new members to join our Chapter.

Alameda Chapter dues are: Regular Members \$20 per year; for Spouse, and Surviving Spouse \$5 a year.

You may mail your dues to the below address. Prompt payment will assist the Alameda Chapter in our administrative duties and is appreciated.

The Alameda Chapter MOAA Board is looking forward to a participating and growing Membership.

Jerry Jacobs
801 Franklin St. # 608
Oakland, CA 94607

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: TREATING HEARING LOSS ENHANCES QUALITY OF LIFE

Rudolf Bredderman

Excerpt from September MOAA Newsletter article by Anne Hartline, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

Ranking behind only heart disease and arthritis, hearing loss is the third largest public health issue in America. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 48 million Americans (20 percent of the population) have some degree of hearing loss. Left untreated, it has been shown to impact overall health and quality of life, sometimes leading to social isolation, depression, and dementia.

Among the causes are aging, chronic exposure to loud noises, damage to the inner ear, heredity, and infections. Some medications and illnesses also can cause hearing loss. Available treatments include hearing aids, cochlear implants, and assistive listening devices. To determine the most appropriate treatment, it's best to be checked by a hearing professional.

Hearing loss that occurs gradually with aging is common. About 25 percent of people in the U.S. between the ages of 55 and 64 have some hearing loss.

Many military veterans, construction workers, farmers, musicians, airport workers, and landscape workers have hearing problems even in their younger and middle years because of exposure to loud noise.

Treatment depends on factors causing the hearing loss as well as the needs of the individual. Most hearing aids today provide better sound quality and speech understanding than recent models. Hearing aids can be worn in or behind the ear and can be adjusted through a smartphone. Cochlear implants are small electronic devices surgically implanted in the inner ear that provide a sense of sound to people who are

profoundly deaf or hard-of-hearing. Assistive listening devices include telephone and cellphone amplifying devices, smartphone or tablet apps, and closed-circuit systems in places of worship, theaters, and auditoriums.

Better hearing can dramatically improve quality of life, provide more self-confidence and closer relationships, lessen depression, and improve outlook on the future.

November 14 General Meeting

Submitted by Chris Hanzlik

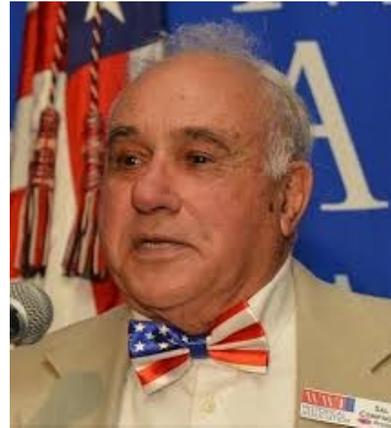
DO YOU KNOW WHICH CENTENARY OCCURS THIS NOVEMBER?

It has been called **THE GREAT WAR** and **THE WAR TO END ALL WARS**. We know it as **WORLD WAR I**. It began in 1914 with many factors that led up to its beginning in Europe. A lot of these factors were rooted in the deep history of the old powers of Europe including Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Britain. The real causes of World War I included politics, secret alliances, imperialism, and nationalistic pride. However, there was one single event, the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, which started a chain of events leading to war. The war ended with an armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. At 5 a.m. that morning, Germany, bereft of manpower and supplies and faced with imminent invasion, signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiègne, France. The First World War left nine million soldiers dead and 21 million wounded. In addition, at least five million civilians died from disease, starvation or exposure. The cost of American lives was over 100,000 dead and over 200,000 wounded.

What happened in between 1914 and 1918? Come on November 14 and listen to Mr. Salvatore Compagno, President of the **WWI Historical Association**, discuss the history behind the event and how it helped to shape the modern world.

Salvatore Compagno, President of the WW1 Historical Association was born in Monterey,

California in 1936 and received his master's degree at University of California at Berkeley in 1962. An acting public-school psychologist for thirty-five years he retired in 2003 and has been a long-time member of many WW1 associations. He joined the **Great War Society** in 1991, and **The Western Front Association** in 1997. He was acting president of the **The Great War Society** from 2003-2010. The two organizations are now one and known as the **World War 1 Historical Association**. He has been president for the past two years.



Sal has traveled widely in Europe visiting the many battlefields of both WW1 & WW2 and led tours to them. He currently lives in Berkeley, CA.

Legislative Liaison

Fred Jaffin

1. Veterans Day Event - Reminder that the Alameda County Veterans Day commemoration on 11 Nov. at 11 am, will be in Hayward at the new Library on C Street with free parking next to the building, and refreshment will be served.
2. Retirement Pay Increases - The new pay for retired military will be at the COLA rate of 2.8%. This will be the same as the Social Security pay rate increases.
3. Election Day - Hope all have or are planning to make your vote count by voting this Tuesday the 6th of Nov.

30th Anniversary of the Viet Nam Memorial in Sacramento Celebrated

Gary Blank

I represented MOAA Alameda at the ceremony

commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Viet Nam War Memorial in Sacramento on Saturday, October 13, 2018. It was a bright, sunny and cool day in Sacramento with about 175 to 200 attendees at the event. The memorial consists of about 12 black granite slabs with the names and ages of the 5676 California veterans who lost their lives in the Viet Nam conflict, organized by the town from which each veteran hailed.



Sister
Linda

McClenahan spoke. She was the chair of the Committee that raised funds and designed the memorial starting in 1984, with the memorial being completed and dedicated in 1988. John Rowan, President of the Viet Nam Veterans of America spoke. He noted that many veterans from the Viet Nam War are still dying from illnesses related to complication from agent orange. Three names were added to the memorial on October 13 for three service men who have died in recent year. Their deaths have been attributed to their service in Viet Nam and exposure to agent orange.

MOAA Holiday Party Planned

Gary Blank

The MOAA Alameda Holiday Luncheon is planned for December 8 at the Alameda Elks Club at 2255 Santa Clara Avenue in Alameda. **The event will start at 12:30 PM.** Please note the new starting time. The luncheon will

be held in the card room located just off the main bar (known as the Mahogany Room) on the second floor. The cost is \$25 per person. Lunch will be served at 1:15. If you want to attend, please get your payment to Warren McDonald by December 1, 2018.

Alameda MOAA Completes Another Successful SF Bay Cruise

Ramona Chavez



Picture perfect! Blue Angels fly over Alcatraz.

The day could not have been more perfect for our annual Fleet Week event. Blue skies with light clouds were quite the backdrop for the Blue Angels as we cruised the San Francisco Bay aboard the USS Potomac.

The private charter allowed the sold out crowd to speak with docents and venture around the former Coast Guard Cutter Electra, a 165-foot long ship that was built in 1934. Rebuilt and refurbished several years ago, the Potomac is now operated on the Bay by a not-for-profit organization and is available for historic tours and private charters such as MOAA.

The "Blues Cruise" as MOAA had termed the event, attracted 124 passengers including MOAA members from the Alameda Chapter, other nearby chapters, and a number of repeat passengers who had enjoyed the cruise in prior years. The almost windless day treated passengers to fabulous Blue Angels fly-overs, as well as a low flying appearance by "Fat Albert", the Navy's C-130 aircraft that accompanies the Blue angels for maintenance

and support. All passengers reported thorough enjoyment of the day, the ship, the food and drink provided.

Fees paid by passengers exceeded costs so the Chapter can continue its annual program of scholarships awarded to Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC students at the University of California at Berkeley and other local colleges. From its inception in 2012, the annual event has doubled its funding that goes toward scholarships.



Pictured above – Tom Hamrick with Ramona Chavez

Special Thanks to Tom Hamrick and Tony Sardella with AT&T Veterans Employee Resource Group (ERG) – Northern California Chapter, who donated the beer, wine, and their time in support of our Chapter event!



Pictured above: Passenger takes in the cool San Francisco sights.



Pictured left: Sidney Jordan, Rodney Grayson, and Michael Schoonover enjoying the "Blues Cruise."

Mark your calendars!

2019 event is slated for Oct. 3rd!

Board Members for 2018

See List of Board Members with contact information at:

<http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Chapter-Officers>

Membership/Renewal Application for the Alameda Chapter is last page of newsletter and below with Online to view or download PDF download with both Alameda Chapter and MOAA National application

<http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Join>

MOAA Direct Online application:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-MOAA/Why-join-MOAA.aspx>

Alameda Chapter Website

<http://www.alamedamoaa.org>

California Council Website

<http://www.calmoaa.org>

Alameda Chapter Editorial and Privacy Policy

<http://alamedamoaa.org/Editorial-and-Privacy-Policies>

MOAA Legislative Update/Action Center

<http://alamedamoaa.org/Legislative-Update>

Useful Websites for California Veterans

- To find information on California Legislation: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>
- California State Senate: <http://senate.ca.gov/>
- California State Assembly: <http://assembly.ca.gov/>
- To find California Law, including the Military and Veterans Code: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>
- Find your State and Local Legislator: <http://votesmart.org/>

2019 Membership Application and/or renewal for the Alameda Chapter

I hereby apply for / renew my membership in the Alameda County Chapter, MOAA.

I am (check one):

- ACTIVE DUTY: Currently a commissioned or warrant officer on active duty in a military service (check one Service below)
- REGULAR: (circle one) a retired, former, reserve, or inactive commissioned or warrant officer of any of the military services (check one Service below)
- SPOUSE or SURVIVING SPOUSE: The (circle one) spouse or surviving spouse of a deceased commissioned or warrant officer of any of the military services (check one Service below)

Name and Rank of qualifying officer's spouse: _____

I qualify for the indicated membership because I, or my spouse, is or was an officer in (check one):

U.S. Service: Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force
 PHS NOAA Coast Guard Corps National Guard
National MOAA # _____

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

I am interested in participating in a Chapter office or committee: Yes No (check one)

Membership is for the calendar year commencing 1 January of each year.

Annual Dues:

Active Duty: none; Regular: \$20 / year; Surviving Spouse: \$5 / year:

Dues for regular members are \$10 when joining on or after 1 July of the first year of membership. Full dues apply thereafter.

Please attach a copy of your military ID, DD-214 or other proof of military service as an officer if you have not already provided this proof to the Alameda County Chapter.

Make checks payable to: ALAMEDA COUNTY CHAPTER, MOAA

Mail to:

Alameda County Chapter, MOAA c/o Jerry Jacobs
801 Franklin St # 608
Oakland, CA 94607-4233

MOAA – ONE ASSOCIATION, ONE VOICE – YOURS