



Los Alamitos Area Chapter News

Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 665, Los Alamitos, CA90720
FEBRUARY 2012

Chapter e-mail addresses: MOAA_losalamitos@msn.com

Chapter WEB: <http://www.moaa.org/chapter/losalamitosarea>

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members,

As advertised, I was installed as your Chapter's President at our January meeting/dinner. Prior to being installed I attended a couple E-Board meetings and I am very impressed with the Board members. They are focused on making the Chapter an organization where we enjoy our gatherings and do something to help our community while being fiscally responsible. You can be proud of the people you have asked to do this.

The E-Board meetings are NOT closed

The E-Board members donate about 1 ½ hours of their time at monthly meeting—discussing, deciding, etc. things for the Chapter's betterment. The E-Board meetings are NOT closed meetings. You are encouraged to join the meetings and, should you so wish, make your desired known—put in your two-bits.

The Board's meetings are held at the Farmers and Merchants Bank, at 0930 at the F&M Bank, 12535 Seal Beach Blvd.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 4 February. Come on by!

Look forward to seeing you at the February dinner meeting on the 16th!

John Ryan, CAPT, USN (ret)
President Los Alamitos Area Chapter

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Feb 4th.....Chapter Exec Meeting
Feb 16th..... Dinner Meeting
Mar 3rdChapter Exec Meeting
Mar 15thDinner Meeting

LOS ALAMITOS CHAPTER DINNER MEETING Date:
January 19, 2012

Entrees: Tri-Tip or Poached Salmon, Tossed Green Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables and Mini Crème Brulee.

Cost: \$25.00/Person (Widows \$23.00)
(Minimum of 25 participants required)

Social Hour at 6PM, Dinner at 7PM and entertainment at 2015

Program: Priscilla Preston known for her powerful and fine tuned vocals is a "must see" entertainer.

Location: Navy Golf Course, Cypress, Ca.

Reservations To: Judie Yost, 11451 Kensington Road, Los Alamitos, CA. 90720-3803. (562) 430-6512 but not later than Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

NOTE: One third of our members have not renewed their membership as of January 28th. Your membership is important and we really want you to continue your membership and participating. Please complete the attached renewal form and mail it to the post office box indicated on the form at your earliest convenience. We would like to get the roster for 2012 out during March 2012.

FOR OUR MEMBERS

About our chapter (Feb)

Did you know that our contribution to CAL-MOAA has been increased this year from 75 cents to \$1.00/member in return for their support and assistance? One item of assistance is their website <http://calmoaa.org/>. It contains copies of newsletters from various California chapters. It is a good place to find out what other chapters are doing—good, bad and the ugly. Check it out.



Eino Yost, LCDR USN Ret, was awarded MOAA'S President's Award by recently installed Chapter President, John Ryan, Capt. USN Ret. LCDR Yost served as the Chapter's President for the last 4 years.

FEBRUARY DINNER ENTERTAINER: Priscilla Preston! Priscilla has sung at numerous Concert Theaters, State Fairs, TV, and Night Clubs from New York to Los Angeles. She learned her trade from her mother who opened for country great, Patsy Cline, and her husband Mark, a performer in his own right, will accompany her. This is definitely "must see" entertainment.

TREASURER'S NOTE: Here is an overall look at our financial picture for 2011. We started the year with \$ 4,811.16 in the bank and finished it with \$4,684.16. Not bad but an overall loss is not acceptable if the trend continues. The E-Board is aware of this and will be monitoring expenditures. That said the Chapter is financially healthy.

DINNER MEETING SEATING POLICY: During the January 7th Executive Board Meeting the decision was made to eliminate assigned seating. So, at our February Dinner Meeting, seating will be first come first serve. Stopping at the reservation table will be only for the purpose of getting 50/50 tickets and the ticket for those who asked for the fish entrée.

Fact or Fiction: Congressional Benefits: Approval ratings for Congress are at a historic low, and our members often ask us what sort of benefits legislators enjoy. The following information isn't presented to defend Congressional perks, but only to dispel some myths that perpetually float around the internet. If we're to have credibility defending military programs, we need to have our facts right.

Fact or Fiction: 1) Members of Congress get full pensions for life after serving just one term. Mostly Fiction The Congressional retirement system is very similar to that of federal civilians. It's true that a member of Congress can become eligible for retirement benefits after a minimum of 5 years of service if they're age 62 or older, but only for a partial pension.

To qualify for a pension a member of Congress must meet one of the following service and age requirements:

5 years of service and age 62 20 years of service and age 50 25 years of service at any age

Like the military retirement system, Congressional retirement pay is calculated on a combination of their average high-three years of salary and a multiplier based on their length of service. It's also worth pointing out that members of Congress contribute to their own retirement and pay Social Security taxes. Once retired their Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are sometimes held artificially below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which measures inflation. Since the Congressional retirement system was overhauled in 1984 (to be less generous) the average annual pension is roughly \$40,000.

OUR PURPOSE

It is always a good idea to take a step back, evaluate, and ask ourselves “*How are we doing and what can I do to help?*”. Our Chapter’s purpose as written in its By-law’s:

“The purposes of the Chapter shall be to promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard or Reserve components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve the community and the nation and such other worthy causes as may be determined by the organization.”

Medicare/TRICARE Cut Looms: Legislators began to trickle back into Washington this week, and they face a full plate in 2012.

A long term debt reduction plan remains the most divisive and elusive issue, and it will likely dominate the proceedings of the 2nd session of the 112th Congress.

If Congress can come to a debt reduction agreement this year it can stave off the automatic debt reduction trigger - sequestration - that would lead to massive cuts in defense spending, and almost certainly disproportionately whack the military community with the brunt of spending cuts.

In the more immediate future Congress will need to pass a long term "doc fix" without which Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors would be cut by more than 27%. The current extension expires at the end of February.

Now's the time to kick off your 2012 grass roots advocacy efforts by sending your legislators a **MOAA-suggested message** asking them to pass a long term "doc fix" and protect access to health care for military families and retirees.

Plan for Your Future: Are you a person who planned ahead and prepared legal documents such as a durable power of attorney for health care, a living will, and a power of attorney for your other personal/financial affairs? Well, if you have contact with any VA services, you would probably be well served by filling out the VA's specific legal documents to make things really official.

You see, the VA is federal and your legal documents are based in state law. That can make things confusing depending on where you signed your state documents, what your state of residence was at the time of signature, your state of residence when you are patient, or where your treatment as a patient is administered. We military retirees are a mobile group.

The VA Advanced Directive for Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and a Living Will is VA form 10-0137. The VA power of attorney forms to appoint a Veteran Service Office or an individual as your representative to handle a VA claim or appeal are VA form 21-22 and VA form 21-22a respectively. All are available on-line; just Google the form numbers or go by your VA office or Veteran Service Office (VSO). Find a local VSO at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm> to ask specific questions.

Reserve for **February 16th** at the Navy Golf Course, 5660 Oranewood, West of Valley View, Cypress, CA. Social Hour 6 PM, Dinner 7 PM, Program Follows:

Enclosed is my check payable to **Los Alamitos Area Chapter, MOAA** for:

Tri-Tip_____ **Poached Salmon**_____ **@ \$25.00**_____ **Widows @ \$23.00**_____

Name/s _____

Guest/s _____ (Do not list spouse as guest)

RSVP: Please send Reservations to be received by **Tuesday, February 14th, 2012.**

Mail reservations and check to: **Judie Yost, 11451 Kensington Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-3893**

(562) 430-6512

*******Remember*******

Chapter Executive Staff Meeting will be on Saturday, February 4th at 0930 at the F&M Bank in North Seal Beach Shopping Center.

LOS ALAMITOS AREA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Enrollment [] Renewal [] January 1--December 31, 2012

MOAA membership number _____ (located on your MOAA Magazine cover)

Please enroll/ Continue as a Member of the Los Alamitos Area Chapter MOAA: Regular Member Officers (Active, Retirees and Former officers) @ \$20.00/Year [] Auxiliary (Widow or surviving spouse) @ \$15.00/Year []

Service Affiliation: Regular [] Reserve [] National Guard []

Present Status: Retired [] Active Duty [] Auxiliary [] Former officer []

Last Name	First Name	MI	Rank	Branch of Service

Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	Area Code / Phone Number

Spouses Name _____ (Surviving spouses indicate military member's Name; Rank & Member No)

Phone Number. _____ Cell Number: _____

E-Mail Address (for Newsletter) _____

Mail Form to: **Los Alamitos Area Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 665, Los Alamitos, CA 90720**