



The Salute online



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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

What a wonderful 35th Anniversary Celebration! More PACMOAA members and spouses attended than in some time and getting to see so many familiar faces from when I first joined PACTROA was a real treat. The evening began with the routine signing in for our social hour but the event was more festive. Two PACTROA/PACMOAA Charter Members were able to attend with their spouses: Jack and Teddy Lyons and Henry and Janet Boschen. All past presidents attending were recognized: Henry Boschen, Jack Lyons, Bob Steorts, Larry Anderson (Bob and Larry have been PACMOAA members for 30 years), Shirley Barker, and Hal Hostetler.



It was also great to see several members that had not attended in some time including Irv Lindley, Gordan Van Hook, and Tom Cahill. In an attempt to increase membership from military facilities in our area, PACMOAA held CO's Dinners from 2004 - 2011. MOAA sent out flyers to all eligible individuals in our area and provided a MOAA speaker. Unfortunately, only a couple of new members joined as a result of those dinners. Tom Cahill, then the CO of the Coast Guard base in Portsmouth, was one of those. PACMOAA welcomed three guests: LCDR Tom Allan, USCG (Ret), the guest of new PACMOAA member



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DIRECTORY](#)

Chapter Happenings May

PRESENTATION OF MOAA MEDALS	11 MIL. SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY
05 CINCEO DE MAYO	13 MOTHER'S DAY
08 ARMED FORCES DAY	19 ARMED FORCES DAY
VE DAY	22 NOAA CORPS BIRTHDAY (1917)
09 CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON	28 134 th MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
10 PACMOAA MAY DINNER	31 BOARD MEETING

MAY MEETING

Our May dinner meeting will be held on Thursday the 10th at Hilton Garden Inn Harbour View. Social hour begins at 1800 with dinner at 1900. The cost of the meal is \$30.00 including tax and gratuity.

DINNER MENU

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

Please make your reservation **no later than Sunday 6 May** with Sherry by phone at — by email at — . PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID!

MAY PROGRAM



On February 10, 2015, Stephanie Morales was the first woman to be elected Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Portsmouth and is the chief law enforcement officer for her city. She has established the Stephanie N. Morales Future Leaders Initiative where her office has hosted over 100 youth as Junior Commonwealth's Attorneys over the past two years. She also formed the Ctrl + Alt + Del Program to help restore felon rights and reduce recidivism. She is a member of the Portsmouth Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a member of

the Portsmouth Chapter of the Links, Inc., Portsmouth Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime and Incarceration (Founding Member,) the Young Elected Officials Network and the Portsmouth Democratic Committee. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree at Norfolk State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. After obtaining her B.A., she went on to attend the College of William and Mary School of Law, where she obtained her Juris Doctor.



Gary Davidson and his wife Toni; Patti Rose, daughter of Henry and Janet Boschen; and Darlene Washington, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless. As always, the "regulars" attended as well as all but one of the current board members. The fellowship and camaraderie with old friends and new was amazing to experience and see.





Bob Steorts also brought in many historical documents and memorabilia from our past that were displayed on several tables around the room for members to view during the social hour. Our anniversary celebrations are the only times the membership can view these materials.



Dinner was served following our social hour. It surpassed any dinner we have had in recent memory. After our entrée we were treated to a special celebratory cake with the youngest CDR Scott Dickinson, USN (Ret) and oldest MAJ Charles Kuehn, USA (Ret) members cutting the first and second pieces.



As we enjoyed our cake, the evenings presentation began with the following introduction by President Ferki.



Bob Steorts and I worked on the presentation for many hours. Gordon Nelson, Ken App, Lynn Terry and his wife Irene prepared the power point part of the presentation. Lynn and Irene also prepared the great slide show for our 30th anniversary celebration. There were so many pictures and stories I did not have time to include even though there were 190 slides in the final show. I was told initially I could only have 110 but I wanted to include pictures of as many members as possible and I think most of those that attended saw themselves at least once.

The program was organized to review PACTROA/PACMOAA's history including charter members, past presidents and leader-

ship teams- past and current. Originally the organization was the Portsmouth Area Chapter of the Retired Officers Association of America. With decreasing membership, the national organization wanted to change the image and, thus, removed retired and changed the name to the Military Officers Association of America in 2003. Awards for the chapter and individuals were reviewed as well as significant activities to include REVIMS and involvement with the Portsmouth Flag Association to get a flagpole at the Portsmouth waterfront. It was really interesting to discuss some of the speakers over the past 8 years and realize the variety of programs we've had - e.g., the Tuskegee Airmen, the red lighthouse you see when crossing the Monitor Merrimac tunnel, numerous local, state and national politicians (e.g., Congressman Bobby Scott, Portsmouth Mayor John Rowe, and Delegate Matthew James), and the Citizens Committee to Protect the Elderly.

Most of the program focused on the PACMOAA Objectives or Priorities: Membership, Legislative Advocacy, and Community Service. **Increasing or at least maintaining the same number of members is crucial for our chapter to be successful!** There were 104 Charter Members in 1983 and membership went to a high of about 224 in 1989 when Bob Steorts was President and Larry Anderson was membership chair. Membership has consistently gone down since then except for 2010 when Dolly Cherrington recruited 32 new members and in 2017 with 11 new members recruited. The outlook for 2018 is not good with only about 70% of members renewing so far. Dolly has sent letters, emails and called about 25 members trying to get them to renew - some have or will be moving this year. There were 2 deaths last year and 4 are not renewing due to health issues with most of her attempts having no response. In an attempt to improve membership, at the February Board meeting, the board members voted to encourage current members to bring friends/potential members to dinners and the cost of

the guest's dinner would only be 1/2 the regular charge. This plan will be tried for 6 months and then we will review the results to see if it is worth continuing. One person cannot be the only person recruiting if we want to have a successful chapter. Thank you to new member Gary Davidson and his wife Toni for bringing a guest to our April dinner!

The second priority or objective for PACMOAA is Legislative Advocacy. One way this is accomplished is by participation in VCOC, which has 2 PACMOAA members as officers - Dolly Cherrington is 2nd Vice President and Jim Stephan is Treasurer. Dolly is also the current VCOC representative but it would be good to have another person assume that position.



She has volunteered to help them with the position. Karl Wilson is the current Legislative Rep. and Hal Hostetler is the Assistant Legislative Rep. In the slide show, we reviewed the various Leadership Team positions PACMOAA members have had in VCOC including elected positions like President (Bob Steorts and Steve Turner) and members that had held the position of VCOC Rep. (e.g. Chuck Kuehn and Bob Parker) and Legislative Rep. (i.e., Shirley Barker and Jack Lyons). The major activities of VCOC in addition to the quarterly meetings were discussed with lots of great pictures - Storming the Hill (both state and national), Congressional Luncheon and the Biennial Luncheon where the deceased members of the previous 2 years are remembered.

Be sure to look at the emails from our legislative rep, assistant leg rep or newsletter editor

for issues that need to be addressed. Responding to emails from MOAA and VCOC about current issues that need to be addressed with our representatives as well as writing letters, calling them and sending in the postcards included with the MOAA magazines are also important ways to help with legislative advocacy. Every state and national representative that has addressed our membership has stressed the importance of involvement & participation in the political process and noted that they pay attention to the number of people that contact them on different issues.

Almost half the presentation included many pictures of the Community Activities PAC-MOAA is involved in. Involvement with students both with JROTC and scholarships are a major effort of our organization. As mentioned later in the newsletter, Leadership Team members are getting ready to attend the JROTC award ceremonies for the 14 local high schools that PACMOAA covers. Pictures of the award certificate, medal, programs from the different schools and pictures of cadets receiving their awards were included as well as pictures of JROTC cadets from several different programs presenting the colors at the June program were included. Pictures of some of the scholarship recipients from 2008 to 2017 were included when they received the award and a later picture in uniform.

Other community activities included the Annual Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade which PACTROA/PACMOAA has participated in for many years and the Annual Joint Brunch (originally at Ft Monroe with the Peninsula and now at the VA Beach Resort and Conference with all three local chapters), Veterans in the Vineyards, Veterans Day events from 2013 through 2017, support of Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, and ended with our annual Christmas Gala. There were over 30 slides with pictures of the Toys for Tots participants, The Tidewater Concert Band, singers and many pictures of members having a good time over the years. This was a truly special night and I hope you enjoyed it as much as we

enjoyed looking over our past 35 years!



Following the presentation, members with long and distinguished service were recognized.

Sherry Ferki received *The Salute's* first Distinguished Service Cup for 15 years of outstanding service as a PACMOAA Officer beginning with her first term as president.



The evening activities concluded with conveyance of best wishes and congratulations from Harry Miller in Florida (Charter Member, Past President and longtime newsletter editor), Bob Parker (Past President, VCOC Leg. Rep. and active member for 30 years living in N. VA) and Bettye Hussey (BOD and Surviving Spouse Liaison living in N.VA)

Chapter Happenings

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness, we announce the passing last month of Lt Col Samuel Newton Simpson III, USAF (Ret.). Sam served for 25 years as a demolitions expert, aviator, and Inspector General Nuclear Weapons Officer.

Elizabeth S. Hathaway, 92, died in March. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas C. Hathaway, Jr. a PACMOAA Charter Member and Chair of the Scholarship Committee for many years. Tom and Liz devoted



many hours of pharmacy service in our REVIMS project. Anyone who has gotten refills at Scott Center over the past 20 years probably met one of them there passing out meds at the drive in window. Although Liz did not

join PACMOAA after Tom's death, all hours worked at Scott Center were in PACMOAA's name! Her smiling face and work ethic are certainly missed there.

Many condolences to both families and their many friends.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

"OUT OF THE MOUTH OF YOUTH" DARE TO DREAM

Life! What a precious gift from God. What a blessing to be alive in a wonderful, vibrant world of unlimited possibilities. Then, adversity strikes, and this "gift" feels more like a curse. "Why? Why me?" we ask. Yet we never get an answer, or do we? After contracting Hodgkin's disease at age seven and being given six months to live, I triumphed over the odds. Call it luck, hope, faith or courage, there are thousands of survivors! Winners like us know the answer-

"Why not us? We can handle it!" I'm not dying of cancer. I'm living with cancer. God doesn't make junk, regardless of what comes our way and I don't have to be afraid anymore.

In my sophomore year of high school, the class was scheduled to run the mile. I will always remember that day because due to swelling and scars from surgery on my leg, for two solid years I had not worn shorts. I was afraid of the teasing. So for two years I lived in fear. Yet that day, it didn't matter. I was ready - shorts, heart and mind. I no sooner got to the starting line before I heard the loud whispers, "Gross!" "How fat!" "How ugly!" I blocked it out.

Then the coach yelled, "Ready. Set. go!" I jetted out of there like an airplane, faster than anyone for the first 20 feet. I didn't know much about pacing then, but it was okay because I was determined to finish first. As we came around the first four laps, there were students all over the track. By the end of the second lap, many of the students had already quit. They had given up and were on the ground gasping for air. As I started the third lap, only a few of my classmates were left on the track, and I began limping. By the time I hit the fourth lap, I was alone. Then it hit me. I realized every boy and girl in my class had beat me, and 12 minutes, 42 seconds after starting, I crossed the finish line. I fell to the ground and shed oceans. I was so embarrassed.

Suddenly my coach ran up to me and picked me up, yelling "You did it. Manuel! Manuel, you finished, son. You finished!" He looked me straight in the eye, waving a piece of paper in his hand. It was my goal for the day, which I had forgotten. I had given it to him before class. He read it to everyone. It simply said, "I, Manuel Diotte, will finish the mile run tomorrow, come what may. No pain or frustration will stop me. For I am more than capable of finishing, and with God as my strength, I will finish." Signed Manuel Diotte - with a little smiling face inside the D, as I always sign my name. My heart lifted. My tears went away, and I had a smile on my face as if I had eaten a banana sideways. My classmates applauded and gave me my first standing ovation. It was then I realized winning isn't always finishing first. Sometimes

winning is just finishing.

From "*Chicken Soup for the Surviving Soul*"

Many of us are cancer survivors, and the story of a young teenager cost me lots of kleenex! Courage and determination can conquer anything!

RECYCLING PERKS

By Ken App

If you reside in Chesapeake or Suffolk, **Recycling Perks** are available to your Household!

At PACMOAA, we would like to start **Giveback Fundraisers** with the **Recycling Perks Program**. Once we are approved, we will send out a notice for you to join the Recycling Perks Program and how to do that.

First, there would be a Signup Campaign. For every Recycling Perks signup, PACMOAA would receive \$5.00 from the Recycling Perks Program. If you are already a member of the Recycling Perks Program, you will not be eligible for the Recycling Perks Signup Campaign. However, you still can participate in a **Featured Campaign**.

After 4-6 months, we would do a **Featured Campaign**. What that means is a member can donate up to 5 times during the Campaign timeframe, typically 30 days. Each donation is 20 Recycling Points, for which PACMOAA will receive a \$2.00 donation from Recycling Perks. Since each Recycling member can donate five times, or 100 Recycling Points, Recycling Perks would donate \$10.00 to PACMOAA! You earn 50 Points every time your Recycling Bin is picked up. So after 2 times your Bin is picked up you will have 100 points to donate. I've been doing Recycling Perks since 2011 and I have received almost 6000 points, so 100 points doesn't cost me that much. We would do a featured Campaign every year. The limit each year is \$500! Unfortunately, Recycling Perks is only available in Chesapeake and Suffolk at this time.

NEWS FROM MOAA

I apologize for having insufficient energy to produce a complete newsletter this month adequately covering all important aspects of interest and concern. News from MOAA suffers most. The news of most urgency is the fact that Tricare for Life is being eyed as an untapped source of revenue. I am under the impression that Congress has a knife in hand as they study Medicare and Social Security. Important as participation in Medicare is mandatory to participate in Tricare for Life after the age of 65. Please participate in MOAA mailings and digital requests for assistance. We must assume the posture of, "don't even think about it." More to follow next month.

REFLECTION FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Being a parent is a job that never ends. The title of your progeny varies but your feeling of responsibility does not waver and applies to adult children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Their understanding just falters at a higher level.

A 6-year-old and a 4-year-old are upstairs in their bedroom. "You know what?" says the 6-year-old. "I think it's about time we start cussing." The 4-year-old nods his head in approval. The 6-year-old continues. "When we go downstairs for breakfast I'm going to say hell and you say ass." "OK!" The 4 year old agrees with enthusiasm.

Their mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6-year-old what he wants for breakfast. "Aw hell, Mom, I guess I'll have some Cheerios." WHACK! He flies out of his chair, stumbles across the kitchen floor, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear every step. The mom shuts him in his room and shouts "You can just stay there till I let you out!"

She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4-year-old, and asks with a stern voice, "And what do YOU want for breakfast young man?" "I don't know," he bewilderedly blubbers, "But you can bet your ass it won't be Cheerios!"

THAT'S A WRAP FOR MAY