



February 2017

# SOUNDINGS

SILVER STRAND CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
CDR Alan Herrmann, USN (Ret)

**Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!**

Some time has passed since I last provided a newsletter, and I once again want to apologize to all for events leading to the cancellation of our December 2016 dinner meeting. However, we're back on track this month with a great program planned for February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Coronado Yacht Club! You will find details about the dinner meeting program later in the newsletter. I know a number of our members (including myself) have dealt with the cold/flu that seems to be going around. Whether subjected to seasonal illness or otherwise, I sincerely hope this letter finds you well!

For planning purposes, please mark your calendars for the upcoming events this year:

- February 20** – Joint dinner meeting with CCNL @ CYC @ 1845 (1800 social hour)
- April 17**– Joint dinner meeting with CCNL @ CYC @ 1845 (1800 social hour) – ROTC/Service Academy scholarship recipient recognition
- May 29** – Memorial Day ceremony @ Star Park
- June 19** – Joint dinner meeting with CCNL @ CYC @ 1845 (1800 social hour)
- July 4** – Coronado 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade
- August 21** – Joint dinner meeting with CCNL @ CYC @ 1845 (1800 social hour)
- October 17** – Joint dinner meeting with CCNL @ CYC @ 1845 (1800 social hour)
- December 12** – Joint dinner meeting with CCNL @ CYC @ 1845 (1800 social hour)

Among several changes for our chapter entering 2017 are those concerning dinner and membership dues rate structure. Our Chapter Board of Directors agreed that our Chapter needed to establish electronic payment options for dues and for dinners for our membership's convenience and to attract younger officers and surviving spouse members less inclined to paying by check or cash. The Board viewed this as a necessary action for the longer term health, viability, and future financial solvency of the Chapter and one that caters to a broader audience of current and potential future members.

While it has been a long time since our local Chapter has seen an increase in dues and dinner prices, the Chapter has experienced incremental increases in the costs associated with providing quality dinner programs and supporting all that MOAA does within our community. For these reasons, the Board is implementing the following changes in 2017:

**Dinners:** Currently we are not fully covering the costs of dinners, and we needed to adjust prices to continue to attract top quality speakers. The Board has approved the following rate structure for 2017:

- Dinners paid in advance either online or by check - \$33
- Dinners paid at the door by credit card, cash or check - \$35



**Dues:** An online electronic Chapter dues payment option has been established on the National MOAA website, with no overhead costs to our Chapter. In order to comply with the website format and minimum transaction requirements, multi-year renewals are limited to 3 years.

- Regular Members: 1 year - \$15  
2 years - \$25  
3 years - \$35
- Surviving Spouses: 2 years - \$12  
3 years - \$15

To renew your dues online, please go to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>. For those members renewing for 3 years, the total cost will not appreciably change as the average would be \$11.67/yr when initially joining or renewing for the 3-yr plan. This structure essentially incentivizes multi-year membership and renewal.

Please note: Payment by check or cash would still be available for those preferring that option; however, membership rates are the same as those listed above for the electronic payment option.

On a separate note, one of the most important issues to highlight is the new Silver Strand MOAA Board of Directors, which will be installed at the 20 February dinner meeting. The 2017 BOD members are listed below:

**2017 Board of Directors/Officers**

President	Alan Herrmann, CDR USN (Ret)
First Vice	Bob Breglio, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Second Vice	Sean McKamey, CDR, USN (Ret)
Secretary	John Clausen, CAPT, USN
Treasurer	Marvin Heinze, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Air Force Rep.	Maurice Grimaud, Col, USAF (Ret)
Army Rep.	Henry Peterson, LTC, USAR (Ret)
Marine Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret)
Navy Rep.	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Coast Guard Rep	Jeff Lee, CAPT, USCG (Ret)
Legislative Chair	Brent Bennitt, VADM, USN (Ret)
Newsletter Editor	Alan Herrmann, CDR USN (Ret)
Personal Affairs	Sparks Moeller
Chaplain	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret)
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Kathleen Prout
Event & Media	
Relations Coordinator	Wendy McGuire, Col, USAR (Ret)
Past President	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)

I am thrilled to be working with such a dedicated group again this year, and I want to extend a special thanks to CAPT Tom Bauer for taking charge of the nominating committee and overseeing the recruitment of new BOD members. Without Tom's efforts, this would not have happened, and of course, Tom made it look pretty smooth!

Hope to have a few more announcements for those who attend the upcoming dinner meeting. Please don't forget to submit your dinner RSVP to Col Wendy McGuire, USAR (Ret) at [wendy@ganoshgourmet.com](mailto:wendy@ganoshgourmet.com).

Sincerely,  
Alan

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"Never Forget" -100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service  
A Commemoration of the San Diego Veterans  
of Most Decorated Unit in the History of American Warfare



February 19th is recognized in the Japanese American communities as the “Day of Remembrance”. It is the day that President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942 sending 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans into internment camps. Ironically, during internment, the sons of many of these families were fighting with a unit that would become the most decorated unit in the history of American warfare.

At the **February 20 dinner and program** the Silver Strand Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is pleased to present the short film, "**Never Forget**", highlighting the local San Diego Japanese American veterans of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, their families, and the families of those veterans who have passed away.

We are also honored to have the filmmaker Lane Nishikawa present to introduce his film and take Q & A following the 20-minute documentary. We are extremely pleased that a San Diego veteran of the 442d RCT, Mas Tsuida, will be present to be recognized, as well as another local veteran of the 442d RCT, Martin Loyd Ito, and his nephew, Robert Ito.

The film, “Never Forget” is a professionally produced, educational documentary short feature film, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, by honoring the veterans of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and their families. It highlights the history of the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare, told from viewpoint of **San Diego veterans**, and also from the families, most of whom were in internment camps while the men were fighting. It is a powerful story of human rights, social justice, honor, and bravery, to pass on to future generations, to learn from and keep close in their hearts. A portion of the film is dedicated to historic photos and photos from the veteran’s family albums. The major body of the film is live interviews of the veterans and their families conducted by Television anchor and documentary filmmaker, David Ono.

In all of his pursuits as an actor, writer, and director, Lane Nishikawa has “continually broken ground in examining the human condition of the Asian American experience.” The son of an accountant and beauty salon owner, Nishikawa was born in Wahiawa on Oahu and then raised in San Francisco from the time he was three. Nishikawa worked his way through San Francisco State University, and in true artistic form, he ended up creating his own degree—a B.A. in Asian-American Theater—in interdisciplinary studies by combining creative writing, ethnic studies, and theater.

In the years since, Lane Nishikawa’s body of work has crossed many different genres. He has written poetry; he has written and performed one-man shows; and he has written, produced, and acted in a number of noteworthy plays. He is an accomplished movie actor and a documentary filmmaker.

Please join the Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA at their joint meeting with the Coronado Council of the Navy League for this important program at the Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way. 6pm Social time, no host bar, 6:45 Dinner (\$33 per person in advance, \$35 at the door), 7:30 Program. **Please note the slight increase in cost for this program.**

Please RSVP to Wendy McGuire at [wendy@ganoshgourmet.com](mailto:wendy@ganoshgourmet.com) if you are not a MOAA or Navy League member, or if you are planning to pay at the door. You do not need to be a member to attend but we pay for the reserved spots, so please plan to attend if you RSVP. This event will surely sell out quickly, so there is a **firm RSVP date of February 15.**



Dinner Meeting Reservation/Donation/Dues Form
Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting Monday, February 20, 2017
(Joint Meeting with Coronado Council Navy League – MOAA hosting)

Guest of Honor

Lane Nishikawa, Filmmaker
Mas Tsuida, Veteran 442 Regimental Combat Team
Robert Ito, Family Member of Veteran, 442 RCT
Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way

When: 1800: Social Time

1845: Dinner – BUFFET @ \$33 in advance, \$35 at the door

1930: Program

Menu

Caesar Salad
Pot Roast with Boiled Parsley Potatoes and Carrots
& Salmon with Lemon Caper Sauce
Fresh dinner rolls / Rice Pilaf with Mushrooms and Herbs/ Seasonal Vegetables
Chef’s choice of Dessert / Beverage Station of Coffee and Tea

Make checks payable and mail to:

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 180043
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check box if you need an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag: [ ] (Only available for multi-year memberships)

Reservations must reach our PO Box by Noon, Wednesday, Feb 15 (Firm)

Number attending dinner \_\_\_ X \$33 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to:

Annual ROTC Scholarship & Service Academy Appointee Recognition Dinner \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Coronado Salute to Military Ball (table sponsorship) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues:

\$10/year for Regular members, \$40 for 5 years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$5/year for Surviving Spouse members, \$20 for 5 years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to RSVP by Wednesday, 15 February and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please contact Wendy McGuire by email at wendy@ganoshgourmet.com



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
February 2017  
VADM Brent Bennett, USN (Ret)

At the start of another legislative year in Washington and Sacramento our MOAA national and state leadership teams are busy meeting with both returning and newly elected legislators, introducing themselves and continuing the process of supporting legislation that will benefit both our active duty and retired military communities. Over the next couple of months, as legislative agendas firm up, we can expect both the national and state leadership to provide focus and prioritization for the issues that need our grass roots support during the upcoming legislative sessions. You can check the MOAA and CalMOAA websites for timely updates.

That said, there are 3 ongoing issues that I'd like to make you aware of:

1. The MOAA website, in the "Take Action" section, has a draft letter to congress persons that supports the elimination of Sequestration, the budget cap legislation that has wreaked havoc with the military programming and budgeting process and dramatically reduced military readiness.
2. California AB 242 is a bill sponsored by Assemblymembers Joaquin Arambula and Jim Patterson that would provide for the collection and tracking of data on veteran's suicides, with the goal of improving prevention outreach programs.
3. Assemblymember Adam Gray is re-engaging on the effort to reduce or eliminate the state tax on retired military pay.

**Remember, these efforts, as well as several more that are in the works, will benefit greatly from letters/office calls/phone calls of support from our members. We will provide you with draft letters of support that will make it 'painless' for you to let our political leaders know that you care. Please stay tuned.**

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## DEERS and Your Income Tax Reporting

11/15/2016

When you do not have your family enrolled in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System \(DEERS\)](#) [A database of information on uniformed services members \(sponsors\), U.S.-sponsored foreign military, DoD and uniformed services civilians, other personnel as directed by the DoD, and their family members. You need to register in DEERS to get TRICARE.](#) (DEERS), the Department of Defense (DoD) cannot accurately report your healthcare coverage to the Internal Revenue Service.

Starting last year, the DoD reported health care coverage of its service members and their dependents to the IRS. This report allows the IRS to determine which families had [minimum essential coverage](#) [Basic health care coverage that meets the Affordable Care Act requirement. If you don't have coverage, you may have to pay a fee for each month you aren't covered.](#) (MEC) as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

For tax purposes, individuals and family members are identified by their Social Security Numbers (SSN). If a sponsor receives a letter indicating that their SSN or a family members' SSN needs to be updated in DEERS please follow the instructions in the letter to ensure your information is correctly reported to the IRS. Those who have not met the MEC requirement will be required to pay a fee for the number of months each family member did not have coverage. If your family information is not reported accurately in DEERS, then your IRS information will be reported incorrectly.

Make sure you go to the right place if you have questions about any required forms you might need. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy members, retirees and annuitants serviced by Defense Finance and Accounting Services can opt-in to receive their IRS Form electronically via [myPay](#) or call 1-888-332-7411 for assistance. Active duty members and active reservists of the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can call 1-866-772-8724 or visit their [Pay and Personnel Center](#) page. Non-active duty Coast Guard, NOAA, Public Health Service (PHS) retirees, annuitants and former spouses can call 1-800-772-8274. Active Public Health Service members can call 240-276-8799, email the PHS pay center at [compensationbranch@psc.gov](mailto:compensationbranch@psc.gov) or fax an email to 240-276-8817.

For general ACA tax questions, please use the Yellow Pages to contact your local IRS Service Center or go to [www.irs.gov/aca](http://www.irs.gov/aca).

For more information on how [TRICARE works with the ACA](#), go to the TRICARE website.

Last Updated 11/15/2016

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## Announcements

1. CAPT Kathy Bruyere passed along a the following: **Wanted ! Volunteers for Miramar National Cemetery**. For details, please contact Kathy at [kmbruyere@gmail.com](mailto:kmbruyere@gmail.com); cell : 619-917-0970.

## Websites of Interest

<http://www.moaa.org/> - access to National MOAA affairs

<http://calmoaa.org/> - access to state MOAA affairs and chapters

[\*California Council of MOAA - Newsletters\*](#)

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx> - access to online Chapter dues renewal

<http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/> - access to local chapter MOAA information

<http://www.vfwpost2422.org/index.html> - local VFW Post 2422 events

<http://www.mynavyleague.org/> - Navy League of the United States website

<https://www.veteranmuseum.org> – information on local museum in Balboa Park

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## Six Good Reasons to Join Your Local MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter. But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers may have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system. **Now is the time for them to join their local chapter** to add their voice to the thousands of other MOAA members making a difference on the legislative front and in their community.

Here are six good reasons for any officer—active duty, Guard, Reserve, former, or retired, or their surviving spouse—to join a MOAA chapter today:

- 1. Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members need to stick together and our chapters are the best way we know to do that.
- 2. Giving back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members have gone the extra step to give back in the truest sense of servant leadership.
- 3. Value added to chapter member lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
- 4. Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second career members in the work force or retired service members who have contacts in the community that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
- 5. Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- 6. Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites every MOAA chapter in the state. These councils often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state-run VA programs.

**Learn more at the websites listed below:**

National MOAA website: <http://www.moaa.org>

California Council of Chapters (CALMOAA) website: <http://www.calmoaa.org>

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA website: <http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org>

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