



October 2016

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!!!

Well, despite summer's passing, this fall has started off unseasonably hot, so I sincerely hope this newsletter finds all our Chapter MOAA members well! For those that missed the August dinner meeting hosted by Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA, our panel discussion, *"When a Loved One Dies: A Checklist for the Longest Week"*, was incredibly well received by those members and guests in attendance. Having local experts, including our own CAPT Kathy Bruyere and Kathy Prout, taking leading roles in the presentation, we covered a lot of ground and provided some peace of mind on this sensitive topic. Once again, CYC's trademark hospitality for the event made the night very special.

As you will find near the end of this newsletter, the program for the CCNL-hosted October 18th (yes, a *Tuesday* night) joint dinner meeting will feature Coronado resident, Richard "Dick" Walker, PhD, providing a presentation on *Operation Frequent Wind*, the two-day evacuation of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War. This operation involved San Diego's aircraft carrier USS MIDWAY (CV-41), so you will not want to miss this chance to hear an insider's view of this historic event. A dinner RSVP form is also located near the end of this letter.

The August 28th Concert-in-the-Park event also saw several Chapter members and guests, and it marked a perfect ending to another spectacular summer in Coronado! We'll continue to look at opportunities for fellowship at future summer concert events as these seem to be appreciated by those who have participated.

This email is our final edition before the November 8th elections. Within these pages you will find a summary of state propositions that will be on the ballot. This unedited summary was passed along to us by the CAL MOAA Legislative Chair along with her comments/opinions, so I hope everyone will take time to review those measures in order that you can make informed decisions on the ballot.

To say the least, this has been an incredibly interesting year in politics. Public cynicism about our political system is probably at an all-time high in my lifetime, and I am reminded of a quote by Winston Churchill that reads, *"Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those others that have been tried from time to time."* However, I also believe all who serve, have served, or supported those who served are the true patriots of our Republic. It is with that thought that I maintain great hope for our country's future. I urge our Chapter MOAA membership to continue to demonstrate leadership and stewardship with respect to our individual right to vote. Please let your voice be heard in November!

Sincerely,
Alan



Silver Strand MOAA Moves Toward Electronic Payments

At the September meeting of the Chapter Board of Directors, the Board 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.

However, in order to cover slight cost increases for activating the electronic payments, some price restructuring will be needed. 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 in providing quality dinner programs and supporting all that MOAA does within our community. For these reasons, the Board is considering implementing the following changes in 2017:

Dinners: Currently we are not fully covering the costs of dinners and need to adjust prices to continue to attract top quality speakers. The Board is considering 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: In order to implement an online electronic Chapter dues payment option on the National MOAA website, we also need to restructure the dues amounts. For those members renewing for 3 years, the total cost will not change as the average would remain \$10/yr when initially joining or renewing for the 3-yr plan. This structure essentially incentivizes multi-year membership and renewal.

- **Regular Members:** 1 year - \$15
2 years - \$25
3 years - \$30
- **Surviving Spouses:** 2 years - \$12
3 years - \$15

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.

If any members have comments or concerns with regards to these fee adjustments, please contact Treasurer, CAPT Marv Heinze, USN (Ret) before the first November. Board member contact information is provided on the last page of this newsletter.

The final decision on these fee structure changes will be made at November's Chapter MOAA Board meeting.



Legislative Report
October 2016
Col Lorna Griess, USA, Ret. (CAL MOAA)

The November ballot will ask you to vote on 17 Propositions this year. Read them carefully, some are tricky. I will attempt to clarify some of them for you. Most of these comments come from the Los Angeles Times, www.latimes.com/politics. You can find the entire list of propositions on www.sos.ca.gov, the Secretary of State web site. *My opinion comments will be in italics.*

Prop 51 – School bond: This initiative would borrow \$9 billion in school bonds. The money would be used for both construction and modernization projects at K-12 schools and community colleges. Funds from previous statewide school bonds already have fully been allocated. Who is behind it: School board officials, business groups and builders gathered voter signatures after lawmakers and Gov. Jerry Brown failed to reach an agreement on a proposal.

Prop 52 – In 2009, a new program was created whereby California hospitals began paying a fee to help the state obtain available federal Medicaid (Medi-Cal) funds, at no cost to California taxpayers. This program has helped pay for health care for low-income children and resulted in California hospitals receiving approximately \$2 billion per year in additional federal money to help hospitals to meet the needs of Medi-Cal patients. This health-related initiative, promoted by the California Hospitals Assn., was born out of state budget deals during the deficit-plagued years. It would make it harder for the legislature to divert funds that are otherwise supposed to be spent on the Medi-Cal program.

Prop 53 – More bonds would need voter approval: Another initiative on the fall ballot seeks to force future statewide votes on any revenue bond that's bigger than \$2 Billion for government projects. Revenue bonds are repaid by revenue that the project generates – like water facilities. Unlike general obligation bonds, they do not require voter approval. Who is behind it: Water is, in fact, what sparked this initiative. A wealthy Stockton farmer funded the effort to qualify this measure, and hopes to force a future election on the financing for Brown's ambitious Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water project.

Prop 54 - *This measure would change the way lawmakers pass bills in Sacramento would hopefully abolish the "gut and amend" practice.* The proposal: Legislation would have to be online for public review at least three days before a final vote. The governor, by declaring an emergency, could exempt a bill from this mandate. The ballot measure also would expand the amount of live video required of legislative action at the state Capitol, and it would allow that video to be used in political campaigns. Who is behind it: It was written by two influential republicans – former Senator Sam Blakeslee and wealthy GOP donor Charles Munger Jr.

Prop 55 – Extend current high-income earner tax rates: This initiative would add 12 years to the life of income tax rates imposed by proposition 30, the 2012 measure championed by Gov. Jerry Brown. Those rates, a 1% to 3% surtax on incomes above \$250,000 a year, would stay in place through 2030 under this measure. The money would be spent on California schools and government healthcare programs, which likely would free up existing tax dollars for other state government programs. Who is behind it: The initiative is being championed by a coalition led by the California Teachers Assn. the state council of the Service Employees International Union (SIEU), the California Hospitals Assn. and the California Medical Assn. *We spend billions on the schools. Where does it go and why is it never enough especially since kids do not seem to be learning anything practical. Obamacare has expanded the Medi-Cal rolls dramatically so that will be another bottomless pit.*

Prop 56 – Raise the tobacco tax by an extra \$2 per pack: Four years after voters rejected a tobacco tax increase, supporters of boosting the levy are back again. The proposal would raise taxes on tobacco and electronic cigarette



products containing nicotine. The money would be used on healthcare and tobacco-control programs. Who is behind it: In addition to anti-smoking groups, this measure counts billionaire Democratic activist Tom Steyer as a key backer.

Prop 57 – For Gov. Jerry Brown, his November ballot initiative is an effort to, in part, undo what he helped create almost four decades ago: A system where prison sentences became less flexible and helped fuel the largest inmate population in the nation. The proposal: More prisoners serving time for a nonviolent crime could become eligible for early release based on their effort to earn credits for education and good behavior while behind bars. The initiative also would eliminate the existing law that can send a juvenile offender immediately to an adult court hearing.

Prop 58 – Repealing the ban on bilingual education: This would remove a key provision of the ban on bilingual education passed by California voters in 1998 as Prop 227. Instead of a general ban on teaching language-learning children only in English, this ballot measure would allow county offices of education and school districts to make the final decision.

Prop 59 – Citizens United advisory measure: Lawmakers also have placed a proposition on the fall ballot that asks voters whether they want California officials to work toward a repeal of the Citizens United campaign finance ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. That ruling opened the door to unlimited spending on federal campaigns by corporations and unions, and could be overturned only by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Given the very high hurdle for any constitutional amendment, this ballot measure is largely a way for California voters to express their opinion on money in politics.

Prop 60 – Adult film star protections: This is an initiative that would require performers in adult films to use condoms during explicit sex scenes. Penalties could be imposed on movie producers for violations of the law. Who is behind it: Michael Weinstein the president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Prop 61 – Prescription drug pricing: This measure would ban state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays for that same drug. The initiative, according to an analysis by the independent Legislative Analyst's Office, says the new "price ceiling" would apply when the state is the purchaser and when state agencies are the final source of the payment. The Pharmaceutical industry already has put close to \$50 million into a campaign account to oppose the measure. Veterans' organizations also oppose this measure. Who is behind it: Michael Weinstein the president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Prop 62 – Repeal the death penalty: This initiative would repeal the 1978 law that imposes execution for the most heinous crimes. If passed, death row sentences would be changed to life without parole. The measure also would send more money earned for prison work to victim restitution efforts. Voters rejected similar effort in 2012. Who is behind it: Mike Farrell, best known for his role as B.J. Honeycutt on the TV series "M*A*S*H." *My thought is, if we do not use the death penalty, abolish it and mainstream the men. Why keep a person on death row for 15 to 20 years with a private room, room service and a state paid lawyer to keep us from killing him. It makes no sense and it's inhumane.*

Prop 63 – The proposal: It would ban the sale and possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines in California. It also would impose background checks for purchasing ammunition, new felony charges for gun thefts and rules for keeping guns out of the hands of felons and others disqualified from possessing firearms. In some cases, the initiative would replicate some of the new gun laws signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last week. In others, advocates say it would go much further. Who is behind it: Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom is the official proponent. He is gearing up for a major campaign that would boost his visibility in advance of the 2018 race for governor.

Prop 64 – The proposal: Marijuana and hemp would be legal under state law, though still illegal in the eyes of the federal government. Sales would be limited to those over the age of 21. State taxes would be collected from buyers, and local taxes would be allowed. Most of the tax revenues would go toward law enforcement and marijuana education programs. *It's sad to think that this is probably a shoo-in. As yet there is no test for driving while under the influence*



like there is for alcohol. Accident rates have gone up in states that have legalized marijuana. It's sadder that we live in a land of plenty and people need a drug to be happy.

Prop 65 – Redirecting the money from bag fees: The plastic bag industry is also the sponsor of an initiative that would require that any fees charged for paper or reusable bags be earmarked for environmental programs. As part of the law that banned single-use bags, those fees can be kept by retailers. *If the stores have to buy the bags, they should be able to cover costs by keeping the money.*

Prop 66 – Speed up the death penalty: This initiative would seek to accelerate the death penalty's legal process by setting new time limits on the review of convictions by the courts. It would require death row inmates to work and pay victim restitution. Who is behind it: Former NFL player Kermit Alexander's mother, sister and two nephews were murdered in their Los Angeles home in 1984. The gunman remains on death row, and Alexander is the official proponent of this initiative. *Our death row policies must be changed. They are inhumane, foolish, expensive and don't serve anybody but the lawyers who have job security collecting state money, representing the same client for 20 years.*

Prop 67 – Plastic bag referendum: This is a ballot referendum, a chance for voters to either uphold or overturn the law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2014 to impose a statewide plastic bag ban. Voters who choose "yes" will be ratifying that law. Who is behind it: The plastic bag industry immediately filed the referendum after the bag ban was signed into law. *The whole reason plastic bags were banned was to protect the environment – the bags were not biodegradable. Layers of plastic have been seen in the oceans. I get that. The stores replaced the plastic bags withplastic bags that were shaped differently. I said to a store clerk one day as I picked up my groceries in their new bags – "This is still a plastic bag." She said "Yes, but it is reusable." Am I missing something here? The banned ones were constantly being reused by everyone, dropped on the street, left at picnic areas, luggage for the homeless and left to blow with the wind, etc. That was the problem.*



Surviving Spouse Notes
by Kathy Prout, Surviving Spouse Liaison

For surviving spouses who receive SSIA:

SSIA will increase to \$310 a month starting November 1, 2016. However, unless an extension is included in the NDAA17, SSIA will end October 30, 2017. Call your Congressman and both Senators and ask them to extend SSIA for one year; please also ask your friends to do the same!

House and Senate Armed Services committee leaders have said they've nearly completed negotiations on the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill.

That's the mammoth bill that will determine TRICARE fee changes, troop levels, the size of the military pay raise, housing allowance changes, and survivor benefit payments, among many other things.

In recent years, those negotiations have dragged into November or December, so it would seem encouraging that progress has been faster this year. However, a lot depends on whether Congress will allow extra money in the DoD budget above the spending caps set under last year's budget deal.

Congress has yet to resolve inter-party disputes on overall federal spending, and whether a rise in DoD spending would have to be matched by a rise in non-defense spending. Until that's resolved, the defense bill (and the final action on all of the personnel and benefit issues) remains in limbo.

So we're back where we were last year, waiting for a lame duck Congress to work these issues out in November and December.



Announcements

1. Chapter Board of Directors positions requiring fills for 2017 include:

- 1st VP/Program Chair
- Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Event & Media Relations Coordinator

Past Silver Strand MOAA president, CAPT Tom Bauer, USN (Ret) is leading a nominating committee to identify interested candidates. If you would like to be considered or desire to make a nomination, please contact Tom by email at bauertg@yahoo.com

The nominating committee (NOMCOM – as Tom likes to call it) will convene late in October to develop the slate of Board member candidates. Elections will happen in November, and installation of the 2017 Board will be during the December 13th dinner meeting.

2. October 29th: The 27th Annual Military Women's Luncheon at MCAS Miramar Officer's Club, 11:00- 2:00. Keynote speaker is Kathy Hansen, Retired Command Master Chief and small business owner. \$25.00. RSVP by October 22nd.

3. November 4th: 2016 San Diego County Veteran of the Year Luncheon, 11:00 - 2:00, Scottish Rite Event Center Mission Valley

4. November 11th: Veterans Day Parade, Harbor Drive, 11:00 – 1:00, Downtown San Diego

5. November 11th: City of Coronado dedication ceremony for US Navy SEAL commemorative monument at Glorietta Bay, 11:00am with reception to follow in the city's boathouse building.

- **This is the first monument in Coronado for the Navy SEALs. It is a life size bronze UDT warrior called Naked Warrior mounted on a horned scully used by the Germans in WWII to damage/sink landing craft bringing soldiers ashore. The ceremony will recognize the UDT/SEAL presence in Coronado since 1946. Mayor Casey Tanaka and NavWarCom, RADM Szymanski, will be speaking at the event**



October 18th Dinner Meeting Preview
(Note: Dinner will be on Tuesday instead of Monday!)

OPERATION FREQUENT WIND

The two-day evacuation of Saigon by the USS MIDWAY (CV-41) at the end of the Vietnam War.

Speaker: Richard A. "Dick" Walker, PhD

Dick Walker is a retired US Navy Commander with about 5,000 flight hours off aircraft carriers and 450 landings. He resides in Coronado, holds a doctorate's degree in education and has been a volunteer at The USS Midway Museum for 12 years.

USS MIDWAY (CV-41) was an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy, the lead ship of its class. Commissioned a week after the end of World War Two, MIDWAY was the largest ship in the world until 1955, as well as the first ship too big to transit the Panama Canal. It operated for an unprecedented 47 years, during which time it saw action in the Vietnam War and served as the Persian Gulf flagship in 1991's Operation Desert Storm. Decommissioned in 1992, it is now a museum ship at the USS MIDWAY Museum, in San Diego.

NOTE: MOAA is asking all members to consider bringing toys to the October dinner meeting as the Armed Services YMCA toy drive is happening before our December dinner meeting. Suggested toys/contributions: Toys around \$20 in value and gift cards for \$20-\$25 from NEX, Target, Toys-R-Us for older kids. New clothes, dresses are also accepted. Age range: Infant to teens.

Thanks for your kind generosity!



Dinner Meeting Reservation/Donation/Dues Form

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2016
(Joint Meeting with Coronado Council Navy League – CCNL Hosting)

Guest of Honor

Richard A. "Dick" Walker, PhD

Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way

When: 1800: Social Time

1845: Dinner – *BUFFET @ \$30.00*

1930: Program

Menu

Caesar Salad

Marinated flank steak with a red wine sauce & Chicken Piccatta

Fresh dinner rolls / Rice Pilaf / 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, 12 October (Firm)

Number attending dinner ____ X \$30 = \$ _____

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, 12 October and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please contact Wendy McGuire by email at wendy@ganoshgourmet.com



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>



Websites of Interest

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

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

The CALMOAA website currently, has feature that allows each chapter to upload their periodic newsletters. They only need to go to:

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

<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

(Please submit recommendations for links you believe other members may have interest)



Silver Strand Chapter MOAA

2016 Board of Directors/Officers

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<http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/>