



THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
www.nwfmoa.org

Vol. 27 No. 05

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

MAY 2021

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 6 May 2021

Reservation Mandatory!

Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
Program to follow

Place: American Legion

105 Hollywood Blvd NW, FWB

Program: ROTC Scholarship Awards
Dave Parisot

Please:

- **RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY**
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:
\$14.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at www.nwfmoa.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS

By Dave Parisot

The title of this article is the motto of our NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. We do this through our support of local JROTC detachments and cadets at seven local high schools in our Chapter catchment area. These high schools are Baker (Army), Choctawhatchee (Air Force), Crestview (Army), Fort Walton Beach (Air Force), Navarre (Navy), Niceville (Air Force), and Walton (Air Force).

The most apparent method of support is the NWFMOA Scholarship Program. Established in 1981 when an award of \$500 was made to a Crestview JROTC cadet, the scholarship program has grown significantly over the years. Although I do not have complete records of all scholarships awarded, I can say that since 2015 we have awarded 36 scholarships totaling over \$100,000. This does not include the eight scholarships we will be awarding this year totaling \$21,500 at our monthly Chapter luncheon. We are returning to holding the Scholarship Luncheon in conjunction with our regular May meeting.

Another way we support local JROTC units is the MOAA Medal Program.

This medal was created by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to recognize leadership and academic achievements of ROTC and JROTC cadets in their junior year of college or high school, respectively. Selectees must be in good academic standing, be of high moral character, demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country, and demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.

This month's luncheon will be Thursday, May 6th with social at 11:30AM and a program start at noon with the Presentation of Colors by the Choctawhatchee JROTC Honor Guard. A plated lunch will be at 12:15PM. The location has changed for this month's luncheon to the Rogers-Hinson American Legion Post 235, 105 Hollywood Blvd, NW, FWB. Please make your lunch reservations via the NWFMOA website or through Fred Westfall no later than 1 May. Tables will be socially distanced with 4 - 5 people per table. We ask that you use a face covering/mask when not seated at your table. Hand sanitizer will be available.

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From the President's Pen

By Mike Griffith

Some of you may be surprised to see a new name at the top of this column. I know I am.

During the past month, our chapter president, Elvira Chiccarelli, found it necessary to resign her position. Since I was first vice president of the chapter, I have taken over as president, in accordance with our chapter bylaws, at least until the end of Elvira's term.



Mike Griffith,
NWFMoa President

As I said above, this came as a surprise to me, so I now find myself with much to do and much to learn in order to do it.

First of all, I would like to thank Elvira for all her work while she served as president. I would also like to thank our chapter officers and the other members of our chapter Board of Directors for the support, encouragement, and useful information that they have been providing to me during the past couple of weeks.

As part of the process of learning how to lead the chapter, I plan to attend the Florida Council of Chapters convention in Sarasota, May 13-17. I will also be studying a great deal of paperwork that has been handed to me, and will be in frequent communication with other board members and members of our chapter.

Please don't forget that our next meeting will not be held at the usual location, but will be held at 11:30 AM at the American Legion Post in Fort Walton Beach. I hope that most of you will be able to attend, as we will be awarding scholarships to deserving Junior ROTC cadets to help them go to college and pursue commissions in the Armed Forces, and they will need all the encouragement that we can provide.

In addition, I will be at the meeting to answer whatever questions I can, and to seek input regarding the direction you would like our chapter to go in the future.

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members:

Ray Alexander, LTC, USA (Retired)

In Memorium

None

Officers Call

When: 27 May 2021

Where: Mulligan's Blue Water Bay Golf Course

Time: 1700--???

Why: To have a good time with good people



Congress stands up for the 'Ghost Army'

By Jennifer Harper (The Washington Times)

Let us pause to remember and honor the "Ghost Army," the top secret World War II-era Army unit that staged 20 daring and deceptive operations near the front lines of Europe. The 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company have been credited with saving some 30,000 lives through inventive operations which included inflatable tanks and aircraft, phony radio transmissions, phantom sound effects, dummy parachutists and fake airfields.

Some historic recognition is on the horizon for this imaginative and fearless force, which numbered about 1,100 back in the day. A bipartisan bill submitted six years ago to award the Ghost Army with the Congressional Gold Medal has achieved "a critical milestone" this week when the legislation garnered its 290th House sponsor — or two-thirds of the members. This ensures that the legislation will now garner consideration on the House floor.

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Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

NWFMOA is awarded two MOAA Grants. On 15 April I received a phone call from the MOAA Development Team office informing me that our Chapter has been awarded a MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant in the amount of \$2,500 and a MOAA COVID Relief Grant in the amount of \$1,250 for a combined total of \$3,750. These grants will be used to purchase Commissary gift cards to be distributed to young enlisted families in ranks E-4 and below. (Please see the Community Outreach article in the April 2021 edition of the Defender for details.) This is the fourth consecutive year that NWFMOA has received a MOAA Community Outreach Grant. With our grant from last year we distributed 143 Commissary gift cards (\$25 each) to needy airmen and soldier families in conjunction with the Eglin, Hurlburt and 7th Special Forces Group (A) First Sergeant organizations and the Hurlburt Airmen & Family Readiness Center. Feedback I received was that these gift cards were sincerely appreciated by the young enlisted families who received them; however, there were additional needs by more families. The total of \$3,750 will allow the Chapter to again purchase 143 Commissary gift cards valued at \$25 each.

We have probably all heard or read about food drive distributions to young enlisted families in our area due to many dependent spouses losing their jobs due to COVID-19. The Commissary gift cards allow each family recipient to select food items they need off the Commissary shelves.

How can you help? Do you want to help out and expand this program by becoming personally involved? A great and meaningful way to do so is to make a donation to the Chapter designated for this purpose by writing a check or making a cash donation. Any funds donated will be added to the amount we receive from the MOAA Grants and used to purchase additional commissary gift cards. You may donate at a Chapter luncheon meeting or by mailing a check payable to NWFMOA to P.O. Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579. Please write "For MOAA Grant" on the check to help George with his accounting. If you, by chance, have some 'extra' COVID Relief funds received from the federal government, this would be a most worthy use of those funds. A donation of \$25 will purchase one gift card; a donation of \$100 will purchase 4 gift cards. Thank you in advance.

Officers and Leaders (cont.)

Continued from page 1

At this luncheon, in addition to presenting scholarships (see awardees below), we will also award the MOAA Medal to seven outstanding JROTC cadets in their junior year of high school, one cadet each from the high schools in our area (see below for medal winners). The presiding officer will be Fran Hendricks, Brigadier General, USAF, Ret. We will also recognize the graduating seniors from the high schools who have received military academy appointments this year, and local JROTC Instructors.

In March the Scholarship Committee consisting of George Colton, Bob Allen, Fred Westfall, Scott Bates, Fran Hendricks, and Dave Parisot received applications from local JROTC cadets for our 2021 scholarships. On 6 April each cadet applicant appeared before the Scholarship Committee members for a 'question and answer' session and scoring. The scores from the written application and the in-person session were combined to determine the winner of the \$4,000 scholarship. Factors scored for each applicant are academic record, education, activities & leadership, honors & awards, community service, work experience, financial need, and recommendations by the JROTC senior officer and others. Recipients of NWFMOA Scholarships are required to enroll in ROTC at their college. Our eight scholarship winners for 2021 are:

Cadet Isabella Barrette, Fort Walton Beach JROTC, projected to attend University of West Florida with a major in General Business

Cadet Connor Dagel, Niceville JROTC; projected to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a major in Aerospace Engineering

Cadet Kathryn Dunn, Crestview JROTC, projected to attend the University of West Florida with a major in Legal Studies (Cadet Dunn will enter college as a junior-year student as she completed her Associate Degree at NWFSC during high school)

Cadet Ethan Gifford, Navarre JROTC, projected to attend the University of Florida with a major in Architecture.

Cadet Logan Herron, Navarre JROTC, projected to attend the University of Florida with a major in Aerospace Engineering

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Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

MOTHERS DAY & MILITARY SPOUSE DAY

These two amazing celebrations underscore how we Americans appreciate our mothers and spouses. The former gave us life and nurturing, and the later took the baton and ran the military race with us. We owe both of them everything, especially for putting up with our absences while we were working in the trenches. They covered birthdays, parent teacher day, sports, sleep-overs, graduations, hospital visits, and driver's test to name a few. Remember we trained, went to work daily, faced unexpected emergencies and deployed for 12-15 months. Their address never changed.

President Reagan in 1984 realized the amazing role and responsibilities of the military spouse and mothers from his personal experience. He was a Captain in the Army Reserve from 1937-1942 and active duty from 1942-45. This lived experience gave him insight into the great role of mothers and military spouses. In 1984 while president, he declared the Friday before Mother's Day to be Military Spouse Day. It is a vital time for all the DOD community to pause, honor and celebrate. Often in our busyness, the spouse is taken for granted.

We know the times are a changing but here is the latest data: 56% of military members are married, 70% officers, 53% enlisted, and 7% are dual military. I mention this to be inclusive in our rapidly changing world; the Air Force leads the other services with 12% spouses who are male.

While I served, my mother made it a point to visit every CONUS base we were assigned. Now that the Lord has called her home, I often sit with my wife Mary (who also served in the Air Force) and share about my mother's qualities. Mom had a strong work ethic and trained her 5 children into our different roles. Nightly prayers and attending church was non-negotiable. She sang in her choir growing up; being faithful to God was the cornerstone of a well-lived life.

She pushed us to study and get our homework accomplished, otherwise we could not go out and play, or watch Ozzie and Harriet or Walter Cronkite. We had plenty of chores to go around—set and clear the kitchen table, serve the food, wash and dry dishes, sweep the floor, gather the laundry and take out the garbage every night.

We older siblings had to help raise the younger ones, while striving to bath, floss and brush and tuck them in. Mom taught us to give more than to expect, to be grateful for every day, to

honor and revere God, pastors and the Bible, and to support them with our actions. (I spent seven summers cutting the church and parsonage lawns and shoveling the snow in the winter; for my work I received 2 Stella Dora cookies and half a coke).

Please take the time and read Proverbs 31:10-31, it is still very relevant.

Next time you visit Barrancas or your family's cemetery, look around and take note that many young mothers, sisters and spouses who wore or washed our uniforms—for they are buried honorably next to warriors.

'Ghost Army' (cont.)

Continued from page 2

"This year may finally be the year that these little-known but highly significant U.S. Army units get the honor and recognition they deserve by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal. And with only about a dozen surviving Ghost Army veterans still living, the time is now to get this bill through Congress," says Rick Beyer, president of the nonprofit Ghost Army Legacy Project which has advocated for the medal award and has produced both a handsome book and an award-winning film about the unit.

The bill was originally introduced by Reps. Annie Kuster, New Hampshire Democrat, and Chris Stewart, Utah Republican.

"Today, we would call what the Ghost Army did 'psy-ops,' or an early form of 'deep fakes.' Their deception techniques were incredibly creative and effective, but because their involvement was secret for so long, they haven't got the recognition they deserve. The legislation to award the Ghost Army the Congressional Gold Medal will finally change that," Mr. Beyer observes.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.

DoD Retirees and Dependents Now Getting Redesigned ID Cards

By: Patricia Kime from Military.com

Military retirees and family members renewing or getting their first military identification cards this year are nearly guaranteed to receive the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, Card, the first update to Defense Department IDs for non-active duty beneficiaries in nearly 30 years.

According to Pentagon data, 97% of the DoD's ID renewal offices, known as Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System, or RAPIDS, sites worldwide are issuing the new cards, which more closely resemble Common Access Cards used by troops and DoD civilians.



A look at the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification Card. (DoD image)

More than 200,000 new cards had been issued as of Feb. 28, according to data provided by the Pentagon.

The USID cards are more durable than the previous laminated cards since they are hard plastic and feature advanced security measures that make them less susceptible to counterfeiting and being used for fraud, according to defense officials.

The cards are being issued to new retirees and family members, as well as beneficiaries whose cards have expired. The transition to the new cards is expected to be completed by January 2026.

Those eligible for the ID cards include dependents of active-duty troops; Reserve members; retirees and their dependents; Medal of Honor recipients and their dependents; 100%-disabled veterans and their dependents; and dependents of Reserve members activated for 30 days or more.

Officers and Leaders (cont.)

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Cadet Ryan Herron, Niceville JROTC, projected to attend Marion Military Academy with a major in Pre-Medical Studies.

Cadet Christian Pedron, Fort Walton Beach JROTC, projected to attend Marion Military Academy with a major in Computer Sciences

Cadet Jeffrey Tavarez, Choctawhatchee JROTC, projected to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a major in Aeronautical Science

Each of these cadets will be awarded at least a \$2,500 scholarship with one of the eight to be awarded the \$4,000 "Lt. Col. James Heavener and Mrs. Una Heavener Memorial Scholarship". One of the seven \$2,500 scholarships is the "Chong (Kim) Parisot Memorial Scholarship".

In past years the MOAA Medals have been presented by a Chapter member at each school's JROTC Awards program. This year, most schools had restrictions on non-school presenters at their JROTC Awards program, so we decided to bring the winning cadets to our luncheon as our guests for the presentations. This year's MOAA Medal winners and their units are: Cadet 1Lt Ashton Strawn (Baker JROTC); Cadet Major Quin Gable (Choctawhatchee JROTC); Cadet Sergeant Jacob Woodall (Crestview JROTC); Cadet SMSgt Gavin Garber (Fort Walton Beach JROTC); Cadet Donovan Rey (Navarre JROTC); Cadet Captain John Harman (Niceville JROTC); and, Cadet Jordan Coffman (Walton JROTC).

I hope you can attend our May luncheon to congratulate all these young men and women as we continue helping to build future military officers and leaders.

SUPPORT MOAA

Do what you can to support our national organization. To learn what's going on and to find out what you can do go to: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.

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Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

On May 6th we will hold our annual Scholarship Luncheon to award eight scholarships to local JROTC cadets from local high schools. Please see the lead article in this month's Defender for information on this event.

Member donations to the Scholarship Fund Century Club since my last article are **Dr. Keith Kulow** and **Kevin Kirby**. Lt Col Kirby's donation puts him in the **Gold Century Club**. Please see the "BG Frank Glunn Century Club" donor list below to see who donated in the past twelve months. Of course, we are very much open to donations from those not currently in the Century Club. If you have some "spare change" left over from your federal COVID payments and would like to share it with a local non-profit organization, I encourage you to consider the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund. A donation form is included in the Defender. Will you be the next Century Club donor?

The 50/50 raffle at the April luncheon was won by **Mick Ryland** who won \$39 with \$39 going to the Scholarship Fund. I want to thank **Fred Westfall** for conducting the 50/50 raffle in my absence. Thanks, also to all who purchased raffle tickets.

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2019 and 2020 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets. [Note: (R) means Renewal of membership.] NOTE: COVID-19 has had significant impacts on the local businesses who contribute regularly to the Scholarship Fund, particularly the restaurants. If you are going to eat out or get carry-out, I encourage you to support the restaurants listed below.

Gold Century Club: Bill Ryan (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred Westfall** (Apr 2018); Clyde Locke (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (Aug 2018); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb 2019); **Don Litke** (August 2019); **Fred Boyer** (August, 2019). **Dr. Keith**

Kulow (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019); **Nick Marotta** (Oct 2020); **Pete Peterzen** (Dec. 2020); **Kathy & Jesse Bush** (Dec. 2020); **Patt & Caroline Maney** (Dec. 2020); and **Kevin Kirby** (April 2021). [Note: 27 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): April 2020: **Larry Bush** (R); **Carol Baker** (R) (In memory of Col. David Baker); **Mike Mitchell** (In memory of Frank Harrison); June 2020: **Dr. Keith Kulow** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Mike Mitchell); **Michael Ramirez**; August 2020: **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Donald Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); and **Eileen Arpke** (R). September 2020: **Doug Hardin** (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk); October 2020: WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (R) (In memory of Jean Lombardo); **Nick Marotta** (R); **George Colton** (R); November 2020: **Bob Gramm** (R); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Howard Fisher** (R); and **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R); December 2020: **Robert "Pete" Peterzen** (R); **Dennis Phillips** (R); **Craig Miller**; **Jesse & Kathy Bush** (R); **Larry Bush** (R); **Scott & Janet Berry** (R); **Patrick Boab** (R); and, **Jeffrey Watson**; **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent and Larry Ketter); **Bob Garcia** (R); **Karl & Charlotte Eschmann** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Chris Beam** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Mrs. Chong Parisot); and, **Patt & Caroline Maney**. January 2021: **Fred Westfall** (R); **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); February 2021: **Rod Gerdes** (R); and **Chris Beam** (R); March 2021: **Dave Davis** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day); **Fred Boyer** (R) (In honor of Marlene Bosak); **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); April 2021: **Dr. Keith Kulow** (R); **Kevin Kirby**.

2019/2020 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): October 2019: **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (\$1,000) (R).

2019/2020 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): December 2019: **Eglin Federal Credit Union** (R); **Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass, Senior Financial Advisors)** (R); **Silver Slipper Casino Hotel** (Bay St. Louis, MS) (In-Kind).

2019/2020 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2019: **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind, R); December 2019: **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind, R).

2019/2020 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): April 2019: **Eye MD of Niceville** (R); November 2019:

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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind, R); **Mary's Kitchen** (FWB & Destin) (In-kind, R); **Buffalo's Reef Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (In-kind, R); **Shalimar Pointe Golf Course** (In-kind, R); December 2019: Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Tammy's Journeys** (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Painting With A Twist** (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Destin Party Boat Fishing** (In-kind, R); **Slick Mick's Deli & Grille** (FWB/Niceville/VPS) (in-kind, R); **Connect with Flowers** (Shalimar) (In-kind, R); **Lee Nissan** (FWB) (In-kind, R).

Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$_____ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club. Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name _____

Address _____

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

☐ This gift is in a memorial in honor of:

☐ Please inform the following of this gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

Make payable to: NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, and mail to:
David Parisot, President; 56 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

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Redesigned ID Cards (cont.)

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As anyone with a military ID knows, the cards are necessary to access military bases easily, shop at commissaries and exchanges, and use on-base amenities.

In April, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pentagon officials announced that dependent and retiree cards that were to expire in 2020 had been extended automatically through September. This allowance has been extended again through June 2021 to help eliminate the need to visit a RAPIDS site in person.

Beneficiaries who have the current ID card should not seek a new card solely for the purpose of obtaining the new style, DoD officials said. The old style ID cards will remain valid through their expiration date, according to the Pentagon.



***Got a Chapter question?
Change in personal info?
Comment?***

***Don't know who to ask?
Email: info@nwfmoe.org
We'll get an answer for you.***



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AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social cultural, professional and service activities that extend for the local to national levels.

Today's Date _____

Last Name First Name Initial

Spouse Phone

Address City State & Zip Code

Email Address

Rank Service MOAA Member Number

☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Active Duty ☐ Retired

This application is for:

☐ Life Member ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ Other _____

Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here is you do not want your ☐ name, ☐ phone number, or ☐ email address listed in the printed chapter directories. Membership includes a subscription to *The Defender* for the dues period. We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

****The spouse of a deceased life member is automatically an auxiliary life member**

Membership Application/ Renewal

**New Members joining this year
receive membership through
December 31 next year for \$25.00**

**Membership Renewal
1 yr--\$25.00, 2 yr--\$48.00, 3 yr--\$65.00**

Life Membership Dues**

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

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