

Sergeants Major Association Newsletter



Association President, Scott Witt announcing the high bids for the silent action items at the annual meeting in April

In this Issue

- President’s Message1
- Past President’s Message.....2
- New Container Signs.....2
- Annual Meeting Scenes.....3
- Chaplain’s Message.....4
- Chaplain’s Fund Donations...4
- Directory of Officers.....5
- Membership Call.....5
- Electronic Dues Payment.....5
- Membership Application.....6

SMA ADDRESS

**6821 Santa Lucia Rd,
Atascadero, CA 93422**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings SMA members,
Hope all of you are doing great. We had a successful annual meeting with a few new faces and quite a few of the old familiar faces. If you didn’t make it this year, be sure to set time aside and be there next year. Always great to get together and catch up, as well raise a little money for the Chaplains fund.

A few of us also got together for the 40th ID send off at Los Alamitos, wishing them the best of luck and safe journeys. We did get a new member out of the adventure, welcome CSM Claudia Ramirez. We’ve had several new members sign up over the last 8 months and a huge welcome to them.

One last note, we have a new Quartermaster. CSM Eckert (R) has been our Quartermaster for as long as I can remember and has done an outstanding job. As this is an appointed position, I talked with 1SG (R) Don Seibert and he will be taking over the reins. We’re going to look at expanding some items for purchase and look at options for new members to choose between the belt buckle or like item TBD.

Again, hope you all are doing well and staying safe throughout the summer. Talk to you all soon.

CSM (R) Scott Witt



Past President Message:

Greetings Association members,

During a retirement party for one of our members I had a conversation with a retired NCO who was not familiar with the process of when they could apply for retirement pay. I found this information on Military .com. Please share with your Soldiers and Airmen that are nearing retirement.

Military Guard or reserve retirement can be an important part of a retirement funding plan, and reaching your 60th birthday and becoming eligible to receive your Guard or reserve retirement is a big deal. If you're in this situation, congratulations, and thank you for your service!

It is important to know that Guard or reserve retirement pay doesn't start coming automatically; you have to apply for it. Applications for Guard or reserve retirement pay are sent to eligible members prior to their 60th birthday, at the address that the service has on file for the retiree. It is super-important that you ensure that the appropriate Reserve Personnel Command or State Headquarters has all your correct contact information at all times so that you don't get "lost in the cracks" when it comes to your retirement.

Reserve component members generally receive a retirement pay application via the regular mail during the year in which they are 58 years old. Guard members generally receive a retirement pay application via the regular mail approximately six months prior to their 60th birthday. If you don't receive your retirement pay application, please reach out to your Reserve Personnel Command or State Headquarters to see what has happened to your application!

Retirement pay applications must be completed and returned to the appropriate offices in order for retirement pay to start in a timely manner. For most retirees, that is the month following the month in which they turn 60.

The date of eligibility to begin receiving a Guard or reserve retirement is slightly different for certain reservists who served on extended active duty under certain conditions. For service after 28 January 2008, the age at which a retiree can draw retiree pay is reduced by three months for each aggregate 90 days of active duty service during any fiscal year. Effective 30 September 2014, that benefit is modified slightly to group the 90 days periods within two fiscal years. This calculation is a little tricky, but the Army's Human Resources Command has a super-thorough fact sheet with a calculator. Read through this page carefully if you think you qualify for reserve retirement pay prior to age 60. The earliest a reserve or Guard component member can begin receiving retirement pay is aged 50, regardless of the amount of eligible active duty time served.

Eligible Guard or reserve retirees who do not apply for their retirement pay when they turn 60 are eligible for full retro-active pay as long as the payments begin by the time they turn 66. After age 66, a penalty is applied to the payments. You definitely don't want to be penalized and lose any of those benefits that you have earned.

Stay Safe,

Andres H Roman CSM (RET)

A big thank you to Terry Williams for donating signs for the Association's storage container.



SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 2023



Chaplains Fund Applications

Senior NCOs who are requesting assistance for their service member (SM) should review the instructions on the application. Requests need to come from the 1SG/NCOIC w/ an endorsement of CSM/CMSgt or, the FAS, if others are deployed.

Follow the instructions on the form completely. The SMA does not *normally* pay funds to the SM. We do send the funds to the SM but the check is made out to the party owed. The SM is responsible to arrange for debt payment. These funds are a grant and there is no repayment expected. However, SM who are able to help support the Chaplain's Fund are free to help other SM in need. An updated fillable pdf form will be included in distribution of each newsletter.

Thank you for supporting this program!!



Chaplains Message:

I stand in awe of your good deeds (Habakkuk's Prayer, 3:2, NIV)

My family and I recently visited the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum and met one of the docents named Alvin Yee. With Doolittle Raid B-25 Bomber close by and a large map of the Pearl Harbor attack as a back drop, Alvin went the distance giving us a brief of events on that historical day. It was hard to step away to see the other exhibits as he spoke so passionately on the subject. I asked how long have you volunteered with this great museum? He was proud to say sixteen years dedicated to serving the visitors.

Alvin's dedication reminded me of the recent Camp San Luis Obispo (CSLO) Sergeants Major Association conference and the dedicated Soldiers past and present along with their spouses doing good deeds of supporting a Soldier care association in existence for over fifty years. Just to capture the conference weekend's good deeds and recognition, Mrs. Jamie O'neal presented her fresh baked cookies when checking into the CSLO billeting office, two retired Command Sergeants Major traveled a distance, one from Florida and another from Arizona to cook the famous Saturday night western BBQ. Lastly, it's was an emotional moment in SMA conference history with very heart felt words from Retired Command Sergeant Major Terry Williams as he informed the dinner crowd of not being able to attend future conferences. Keep in mind Terry has attended SMA conferences since they began. The audience teared up and Terry received a standing ovation. All good deeds we stand in awe of.

While returning from this year's SMA superb conference with a few miles from home my check engine light came on. The following morning my car was towed to my local Veteran supportive mechanic John. As I walked into his shop he immediately introduced me to a Soldier recipient of a Chaplain's fund request who is now a repeat customer. The Soldier expressed sincere appreciation for helping her out late last year. That surely made my day. All in SMA Chaplain's Fund good deeds. For all the California National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, please continue to support the California Sergeants Major Association with membership, Chaplain Fund donations and attending our awesome conferences. Looking forward to seeing new faces at the 2024 conference.

In His grip, CSM (Ret) Ron Cabrera

310-503-9284

SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC 2023 OFFICER DIRECTORY

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Calling all E7 to E9 to be a member!!

Active or retired service members in the
CAARNG, CAANG, CSG

Application on page 6

SMA Sustains Success in Electronic Age!

Newsletters are being successfully delivered by e-mail with a few still carried by USPS for those members who we do not have email addresses.

The ability to pay dues and meeting costs have also met with your approval.

Remember, you have several options for payment:

1. The **"Bill Payment"** program associated with most checking accounts. Make sure to list the Association's mailing address. See "Zelle" below.

2. **"Zelle"** program offered by most banks. Direct the payment to: SMA, 6821 Santa Lucia Rd, Atascadero, CA 93422

3. **"VENMO"** program. Send to:
@Michael-Rider-33

Again, thank you for your cooperation.
 SMA Executive Board

JOIN THE SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Sergeants Major Association of California, Inc was chartered in the State of California on 19 October 1968 as a social, patriotic organization advocating the following creed: **"We, the Members of the Sergeants Major Association of California, being desirous of improving the status and image of the National Guard and promoting the wellbeing, welfare and qualifications of the Enlisted members of the National Guard, dedicate ourselves to maintaining the professionalism required of us, and pledge ourselves to this creed."** The Association was founded by a group of Sergeants Major from units throughout California. The goals of the Association since its inception, has been to enhance the image of the National Guard and provide a means of communication for Senior Noncommissioned Officers. **Membership is open to all Active, Retired, or Honorably Discharged Senior NCOs (E-7 through E-9) of the National Guard, California State Guard, and Reserve Components.** An Associate Membership is available for Family Members, Businesses, and Concerned Citizens who share our common goals. In the early years, the Association's focus was on supporting the Soldier and NCO education systems at Camp San Luis Obispo and Camp Roberts. We also contributed to construction of the CSLO Recreational Vehicle Park and improvements to the building that is now Parker Hall. Currently we are actively working with CSLO to modernize Parker Hall so that it will again be a relaxing place for both Soldiers and NCOs to socialize. We also support the Army and Air Service Members of the Year program, CAL GUARD Ready Families programs and we manage the Sergeants Major Association Chaplains Fund, which aids California National Guard Servicemembers throughout the State. We continually look for new ways to respond to the everchanging requirements of the National Guard to better support both Senior NCOs and Junior Enlisted Soldiers. **Dues in the Association are \$40.00 per year, with an additional \$15.00 initiation fee for new members for the first year of membership.**

PART I - SPONSER'S ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

a. Name: <i>(Last, First, MI)</i>	b. Grade / Civ:	c. Cell Phone:
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PART II - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

a. Name: <i>(Last, First, MI)</i>	b. Grade / Civ:	c. Date of Birth:	d. Unit / Organization:
e. Home Address: <i>(Street #, City, State, Zip)</i>	f. Spouse Name: <i>(Last, First)</i>		g. Duty Position:
h. E-Mail Address:	i. Work Phone:	j. Cell Phone:	
k.. Military Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> M-Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Tech	<input type="checkbox"/> AGR
l. Branch of Service:	<input type="checkbox"/> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

PART III - BENEFICIARY INFORMATION

a. Name: <i>(Last, First, MI)</i>	b. Relationship:	c. Cell Phone:
d. Home Address: <i>(Street #, City, State, Zip)</i>	e. Email	

Please enter dates in this format: DD MMM YYYY

Fill out this application and send it with a payment of \$55.00 to cover the initiation fee and first year's dues.

Mail to: **-or-**

Electronic:

E-Mail Application to:

**Sergeants Major Association, Inc.
Attn: SFC(R) Michael L. Rider
6821 Santa Lucia Rd
Atascadero, CA 93422**

**Venmo: @Michael-Rider-33
Zelle: rideman19@hotmail.com**

rideman19@hotmail.com