

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings SMA members,

What a great gathering we had at the Annual meeting this past May at Camp San Luis Obispo. We're still hitting our same numbers of attendees, but the group showing up always has a great time. Make it a point to join us next year and see what you've been missing. Next year we'll be meeting in September (2026), again at Camp San Luis Obispo. We were able to hang our SMA sign in front of Parker Hall, pictures included later in this newsletter.

During the Annual meeting we voted on several standing orders, whether to stop, delete, or keep active. There were several that we decided to delete as the function is longer valid, or the recipients have not asked in several years for funds. Overall this is good, we can keep more funds going towards Chaplain fund request. With this said, we still have a good amount in the account for dealing with request, but always good to have donations. Also if you know someone or an organization wanting to donate, share our information. First Vice CSM (R) Joe Menard is our main POC for this.

During the meeting there were 2 committee's established. One will focus on the update of our By-Laws with the latest information on the Standing orders as well. This committee is being chaired by Andy Roman with the help of SGM (R) Strauss, CSM (R) Joe Menard and MSG (R) Lori Clayton. The second committee will focus on a membership drive, chaired by CSM (R) Rod Pullen with the help of CSM (R) Ron Cabrera, CSM Claudia Ramirez and 1SG Jason White. Thank you to these team members for stepping up to help with these causes.

I'd like to close this out by saying thank you to all who helped get our Annual meeting up and running. Setting up the meeting, making sure we have meals covered and all our prizes for the drawing and silent auction. This event would not be possible without all the volunteered time. One of the reasons Kelly and I love donating to the Chaplains Fund is all monies go towards helping Service Members. All officers and committee members are completely volunteer. Thank you again for all the dedication. Thank you for belonging to the Sergeants Major Association of California.

CSM Scott Witt USA Retired

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Association Address**Sergeants Major Association of California Inc.**

9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624

The Sergeants Major Association of California (SMAofCA) newsletter is published quarterly and distributed via email to the member's email address submitted with their membership application information sheet. Continued receipt of the newsletter is dependent upon you keeping your email address current. If you are not receiving the newsletter please send your correct email (civilian email is best) to CSM Joe Menard (USA Retired) at jrmnard@surewest.net.

SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC 2025 OFFICER DIRECTORY

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Sergeants Major Association of California Inc is incorporated within California (corporation number 0623452) as a charitable organization.

The Association is recognized as a tax-exempt veterans organization by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(19) . Tax ID #237104052

The association is registered with the Attorney General of California as a charitable organization registration number CT0292356.

The Association has re-established electronic payment methods!!

Treasurer CSM Janet Graves has re-established method to pay due and make donations via electronic payment method. This is:

Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

For those of us still comfortable with a check book and the postal service payment can still be mailed to the Association to:

**Sergeants Major Association of California
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624**



Chaplains Message:

Greetings all,

As always, I enjoy a no hurry scenic drive-up Highway 101 to Camp San Luis Obispo making stops along the way such as Pt. Mugu Naval Base, Highway 154 through the Santa Ynez Valley and finally after three decades caught a tour of the San Luis Obispo Mission. The highlight of the trip is reconnecting with the retired and active Senior NCOs from the California National Guard. The book of Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" and so the annual Sergeant Majors Association conference serves as an opportunity to reenforce us with our mission of keeping leaders connected while addressing Soldier care. We have an opportunity to network, raise funds and take care of association business. The next conference is scheduled for September 25-27, 2026, at Camp San Luis Obispo.

The civil unrest in Southern California has challenged the capabilities of our National Guard. As a result, the Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos has transformed into a Forward Operating Base (FOB) setting with large white tents used to house, feed and provide MWR services for hundreds if not thousands of Soldiers. Visitor restrictions apply with not even retirees can enter unless renewing their ID. The benefit of FOB Los Alamitos is maximum Soldier face time to train, lead Soldiers and utilize equipment in a title 10 status. However, prayers and thoughts are needed as Soldiers are away from their loved ones, jobs and their usual civilian income. There's no spike in chaplain fund requests at this point, but as time goes on the SMA Chaplain Fund can assist after the Soldier's NCO chain has validated the need and all other resources are not available.

With the summer season in effect, be sure to tap into military service features and benefits from purchasing discount tickets to amusement parks or utilizing local military base facilities. Case in point, I frequent the Camp Pendleton beaches and either rent a privately owned RV or book a cottage. San Onofre Recreational Beach (SORB) has a uniqueness all its own with camp spots on the shore or bluff. The cottages have a great view from the bluff. Del Mar Recreational Beach and Marina near Oceanside provides watercraft to rent. Plenty of fishing off the jetty and there's even a kid's beach free of waves. Either one has spectacular sunsets. Soldiers and Airmen can call the 24-hour reservation line at 1-888-409-7829. If weekends are booked, then consider a weekday stay.

In His grip,
CSM (Ret) Ron Cabrera
OIF/OEF CAARNG

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/ recommendations of CSM/CMSgt or, the FAS, if others are deployed.

Review the Application to ensure it is complete, request clearly show that SM has a valid financial need & all contact information for parties involved is correct.

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 Chaplains Fund are free to help other SM in need.

Thank you for supporting this program!!

CHAPLAINS FUND DONATIONS

For your convenience, donations to the Sergeants Major Association's Chaplains Fund can be made by:

Checks sent to:

SMAofCA Chaplain's Fund
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Or by Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

SMAofCA is a 501(c)(19) Federal tax exempt non profit.
Tax ID # 23-7104052 and California 23701w tax exempt
charitable veterans organization (Corporation # 0623452)

From the editor:

I recently came into possession of some old membership rosters that I have been working to merge into the electronic membership master database that I have been maintaining. The goal is to create a master database that lists everyone who has been or is a member. This would include those who at sometime were a member regardless of how long. There are many members and former members that I do not have complete contact information for. Significantly missing are current civilian email addresses. Since 99% of our communications are through email, I would like any assistance from current members who know of email addresses for former members. If you are familiar with any of the following former members please consider sending their email address to me at jrmenard@surewest.net or forward this newsletter to them. There will be more names posted in future newsletters. Best regards, Joe

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|---------------------|-------------------|
| Acosta, Rudolph | Bowley, John |
| Alexander, Levi | Brewster, Ricky |
| Alexander, Naomi | Bringuel, Willaim |
| Allen, Kent | Britt, Mike |
| Allen, Lewis | Brown, Charles |
| Alvares, Manual | Budek, David |
| Amado, Richard | Buhr, Gary |
| Anderson, Donald | Burgess, William |
| Andes, Connie | Burgher, Alfred |
| Andrews, Gary | Burk, Michael |
| Andrews, Ronald | Burrey, Leo |
| Antone, Joseph | Butcher, Andrew |
| Appleby, Roger | Burkhouse, ????? |
| Arno. Tammy | |
| Arnold, Clyde | |
| Arthur, Walter | |
| Asbury, James | |
| Atwood, Robert | |
| Averna, Loretta | |
| Bacigalupo, Ronald | |
| Bailey, Michael | |
| Baptiste, Shannon | |
| Barkins, Brian | |
| Benetez, Richard | |
| Baraldi, Allen | |
| Bennett, James | |
| Berry, James | |
| Bernsteins, Janis | |
| Besson, George | |
| Birkenbeuel, Dennis | |
| Bishop, Charles | |
| Bivens, Robert | |
| Black, Daniel | |
| Block, Terry | |
| Blodgett, Fredrick | |
| Bodmer, Ryan | |
| Bohanon, Carolyn | |
| Bourgeois, John | |

At the Association meeting in July of 2024. A committee was formed to develop a sign to place on the NCO Club (Parker Hall) at Camp San Luis Obispo. The committee settled upon an aluminum sign with a powdered coated gold background plate with a water jet cut and powdered coated foreground of the Association's symbol. The Executive Board approved the design and funds for fabrication. A photo of the sign as hung on the front of Parker Hall is below. Many thanks to Andy Roman for chairing the committee and using his contacts from his previous civilian employer for the fabrication of the aluminum plate.

The computer design time to convert the pdf of the symbol into computer language for the waterjet cutting was donated by Charlie Rogers at Capital Rubber and Gasket Waterjet. The powder coating was done by Champion Powder Coating in Sacramento, where the owners' father was a member of the 640th Tank Destroyer Battalion that formed at Camp San Luis Obispo during WWII and deployed to the pacific theater under the 40th Infantry Division.





Sergeants Major Association of California Inc.

Dues Renewal for Calendar year 2025

Calendar year 2025 Membership Dues.	\$40.00
Survivor Benefit Assessment	\$4.00
Chaplain’s fund donations	\$
Total amount paid	\$

Support your association by renewing your membership today! Your membership dues ensure the continued existence of the association and are used for operating expenses and support to activities, and organizations that are of mutual benefit to the association and to the enlisted force.

Gold card members are not required to pay dues. However, per the by-laws Article III, Section 3E “The non-dues paying members may attend any and all functions by paying costs and fees for Association functions as determined by the Executive Board, but do not qualify for any of the Association Benefits. Those members who qualified for Gold Card membership prior to 28 May 1977 retain all membership benefits and are not required to pay dues.”

The survivor benefit assessment helps to fund the \$500 death benefit paid to identified beneficiary of a recently deceased active member.

Your contribution to the Chaplain’s Fund helps to maintain viability of this benevolent fund that supports enlisted service members in need of emergency assistance of the California Army National Guard, of the California Air National Guard and of the California State Guard.

Payment methods: **if paying using an app include your name and what the payment is for.**

Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

Check to:
SMAofCA
Joe Menard
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove, CA 95624

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

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

PART III - BENEFICIARY INFORMATION

a. Name: (Last, First, MI)	b. Relationship:	c. Cell Phone:
d. Home Address: (Street #, City, State, Zip)	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-

Sergeants Major Association, Inc.
9301 Sierra Spring Way
Elk Grove CA 95624

Electronic:

Venmo: @smaofcalifornia
Zelle: smaofcalifornia@gmail.com
Cashapp: \$SMAofCalifornia

E-Mail Application to:

smaofcalifornia@gmail.com

