



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

JANUARY 2008 CHARTERED 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

DUES!! DUES!! DUES!! DUES!! DUES!!

The push is on for you to renew your membership in the Arizona Chapter. Use the form on page 5



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

Well, folks here we are - January - the first edition of The Sentinel for 2008. As we begin this year, I'd like to wish each of you a very Happy New Year and all the best in 2008.

We survived 2007 with yours truly at the helm, but I could not have done it without the absolutely selfless help of all of the members of the board of directors. Thank you all. With the board's continued blessing I am sure 2008 will prove to be even more successful.

After many issues and several years, The Sentinel has been noticed by some veteran's organizations and national MOAA as one of the best newsletters serving the MOAA community. We set the bar high, and we'll continue to deliver a quality product. I thank all of you for your support and words of encouragement over the year; especially the staff

(Fran) and all Chapter members who contributed articles and photos to our pages over the past year. Keep sending them in and emailing your suggestions. And, just a reminder, I am looking for a relief to replace me as the Editor of the newsletter this year. There has to be one or more of you who have a little time you could donate to the Chapter by picking up the Editor's reins for The Sentinel.

Some thoughts for 2008: Keep in your thoughts and prayers for peace those who stand at the point of the spear and who are away from their loved ones and our great country. Also, remember those families whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation.

For those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to spend our time at home in the United States, let's keep in mind

our troops who are forward deployed. Thanks to them, we can enjoy this New Year in relative safety.

Reach out to those less fortunate than you. Visit a veteran's hospital or nursing home to listen and chat with a vet who has no family to visit them. Volunteer to run errands or do chores for a shut-in. Help prepare hot meals or sack lunches for the elderly.

Let's continue our efforts to increase our Chapter membership. If you know someone who is eligible for membership don't hesitate to tell them about the things that MOAA stands for and encourage them to become members of the Arizona Chapter and National MOAA. If they express an interest, just let our Membership Chairperson Dee Norton know and we will contact your friend and let them know the steps to be taken for membership.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

- January 3**
- BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107
- January 19**
- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club
- February 7**
- BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107
- February 16**
- Christmas General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG

President's Perspective.....continued from page 1

For those of you who could not make it to our December luncheon, you really missed out on a fun event. The solid hour of music provided by the Dickens Carolers was excellent and the Chinese Auction that was held near the end of the luncheon was great fun with many of the gifts swapping hands more than once! Until next time...stay safe.

Terry Tassin

United States Public Health Service

The origins of the United States Public Health Service may be traced to the passage of an Act in 1798 that provided for the care and relief of sick and injured merchant seamen. The leaders of the young n a t i o n that a healthy marine was protect the prosperity and defense of the



American recognized merchant necessary to economic national country. The 1798 law created a fund to be used by the federal government to provide medical services to merchant seamen in American ports.

Happy Birthday PHS!

Happy New Year from Your Membership Chairperson!

by Dee Norton

A new year for the Arizona Chapter of MOAA brings new opportunities for membership for our Chapter. In 2007 we grew by about 20 new members. As more people retire and move to Arizona, the opportunities' for recruiting new members continues as well. If you run across someone that you think might be interested in our MOAA Chapter, please let me know. I will send them all the information. Also – since we are in a new year, this is an ideal time for them to join as they get the first year for free.

I am continuing my mail outs to people who National MOAA lets me know have relocated to Arizona. Hopefully we will continue to grow and we will be able to utilize some of our new members in some positions. Thanks to all and Happy New Year!

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth ;and the troops of our country. Since the last newsletter many thanks to the members below for their donations to the:

General Fund (\$40)

- The Osterman's \$10
- The Bartyzel's \$10
- The Katz's \$10
- The Newell's \$10

Scholarship Fund (\$37)

- June Bryan \$25
- Mike Gannon \$12

Needed - a Few Good Men and Women to Present JROTC Awards

This is the first request for volunteers to attend JROTC award ceremonies and present MOAA medals to deserving students. Please support this effort by contacting Terry Tassin at either (623) 931-1546 or email terrytassin@cox.net and let him know you are available and which school. The February newsletter will have a complete list of schools and presentation dates. Don't wait - call Terry and ask which schools we need presenters.

**Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, January 19
McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **January 19** at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social hour at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 7 of this newsletter. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is **Thursday, January 17**. Come join us for good food and comradeship.



December 6 Board Meeting Notes

by Ron Perkins, Secretary

The Board of Directors met on December 6, 2007.

Treasurer's Report: The present status of fund accounts is:

General Checking:	\$ 4388.43
Scholarship:	\$ 7740.39
Total Accounts:	\$ 12,128.82

Legislative: State: Gary Fredricks reported that the Arizona Veteran's Association had sent out letters to the Governor, State Speaker of the House and other essential offices expressing concern about any budget cuts to the Arizona Veteran's Home. He reported that many Veteran Organizations were also working on letters to the same. Everyone is encouraged to use the canned format provided by Terry Tassin in an e-mail to write their state senators and representatives.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway reported that Tricare would now pay for the Shingles Vaccine for those over 60. However there was a glitch in that the payment was out of Medical part D and not B which is what all Tricare for Life members have. There was no news on a possible fix at this time.

Programs: Chuck Schluter reported the program for December would be the Dickens Carolers. Frank Birtciel made a motion to have each of the board members bring a wrapped gift to give away for the monthly raffle with a surprise twist for the winner; rules to be explained by Ron Perkins at the luncheon. Ron Green seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. For January the program will be Matt Chitwood who is the grandson of a Battle of the Bulge veteran (*Ed: this has been moved to April*); and for February the program will be Jean McFarland speaking on Bully's in the Workplace.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks suggested having an evening function vice the luncheon for special events next year. Chet Baumer made a motion to have two evening functions next year, one in October and the other one in December. Ron Green seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Details to follow.

AZ National Guard Family Assistance program donation/AER Fund: Ron Green reported that the chapter had donated a total of \$605 dollars to the fund as of this date.

Purchase of Tumbler Sets: A motion was made by Gary Fredricks to purchase ten tumbler sets at \$10 a piece. The motion was seconded by Chet Baumer and was passed unanimously.

Membership renewal drive for 2008: Several members had already sent in their dues which means we are off to a good start but many members still need to pay for the up coming year 2008. Please use the form in the Sentinel and send it with a check to Terry Tassin

December 15 General Luncheon Meeting Notes

General Luncheon Membership meeting was held at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Meeting called to order at 11:55 AM The Dickens Carolers provided Christmas music while lunch was being served. Members and Guests Present: **54** After lunch and the Dickens Carolers, the official part of the meeting began at 1:00 PM with the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. New member Richard Peay and his wife Edith and their guests Gary and Kathie Provost were introduced. First time attendee member Roger Schartzter also introduced. Terry Tassin reported a change to the January speaker. New speaker would be coming from the Arizona Rangers. A Christmas Chinese Auction was run by Ron Perkins where a total of eighteen gifts were selected. All the gifts were donated by the board members with all the raffle ticket money, \$171, going to the scholarship fund.

Coming Attractions

By Chuck Schluter



January 19: Our guest Speaker will be 1LT Frank Helton of the AZ Rangers. The Rangers contribution to the lore of the past and the law of today remains akin to legend. 1LT Helton is a Company Historian, and "other duties as assigned" include interviews with prospective Rangers.

February 16: Jean McFarland, a prominent local Business Woman and member of the National Speakers Association, will discuss *Bullies in the Work Place*. Not working anymore? - think about those who we love who are still out there! This is a very provocative topic.

March 15: BG Wayne Hoffman is our National MOAA Chaplain and also a member of the Board of Directors. His topic is entitled "*Facing the Future without Fret or Fear*". When you were active, you were "*Ready - Willing and Able*", but today it could be "*Here I come, Ready or Not*". Are your affairs in order?

April 19: Matt Chitwood is the grandson of a Battle of the Bulge veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Matt's personal research and on the ground tour of Bastogne and the surrounding areas adds flavor to his grandfathers post war meeting with the German soldier who may have caused his wounds.



Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

TURNING THE CORNER

The death of someone very close to you can be a life-transforming event that affects all aspects of your life. Grief is a natural human emotion that helps people heal after a period of loss in their lives. It can feel as if your world has been shattered-and in many ways it has. The grief process is the journey between two worlds - the one that is now gone and has to be left behind and a new world that lies ahead of you.

Torn between living in the past and finding the strength to face the future, your first months - and even years - following the death can be particularly difficult. Just when you think you're getting better, hearing a certain song on the radio or seeing a photograph can release a new wave of emotions. For the military survivor, this experience is amplified by hearing news of casualties of war, military parades, and holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Although everybody is different, we can take comfort knowing that others have walked down this path before and we can find solace in this shared experience. All of us will find our own way through, at our own pace, while reaching different landmarks along the way. For some, the pain of loss lingers for years and life seems forever diminished by the absence of the deceased. For others, bereavement is ultimately an enriching journey that makes us more sensitive to the pain of those around us and brings renewed energy to take on new activities.

What you have just read is the introduction to a wonderful MOAA publication which we should all read; both those who have recently lost a loved one, and those who haven't so we all understand what our friends are going through. There is much more information in the publication referenced above. You can request a copy by phone at 1-800-234-6622 or at the MOAA web site www.moaa.org. You will need your MOAA membership number.



TOPS Tips

by Chuck Schluter, TOPS Chair

TOPS Tips are compliments of www.moaa.org, and the plan is to re-publish Common Résumé Mistakes over a period of time in the Sentinel, as room allows.

Common Résumé Mistakes

Many job hunters make the same mistakes over and over again in their résumés. A résumé will not get you a job, but a poorly written résumé can keep you from getting an interview that might lead to a job. Résumés don't have a perfect format, and everyone has an opinion on how to write one. So don't spend too much time trying to write the perfect résumé. More importantly, never pay anyone to write your résumé. You must write your own résumé because you will be the only one at the interview to defend it. Be careful to avoid the common résumé mistakes. These mistakes could make the difference between getting an interview -- and a new job - or having your résumé pitched into the trash can.

Mistake No. 2: Your résumé doesn't contain a clear summary statement. Employers and their staffs are busy. Your summary statement will determine whether your résumé gets an initial 10-second look along with a decision to evaluate it more fully, or is deleted or pitched into the trashcan. If you state a clear objective, followed by four to six sentences in the summary statement highlighting your skills, you'll likely get someone's attention. A strong summary statement might say, "Twenty-plus years in all facets of logistics operations; extensive hands-on field operating experience with staff and supervisory experience throughout the Department of Army. Most recently served as the director of logistics operations at Fort Lee, Va., followed by a senior-level staff position within the Department of Defense and as an instructor in the Defense Systems Management College at Ft. Belvoir, VA." In the summary statement, you must attempt to tell an employer what you can do for them or their organization. You must convey how you can fulfill their needs. Regardless of what you have read, employers are not giving the world away to get new employees. You must know their bottom line and how you can positively impact it. You are being hired to enhance the company's performance at minimum cost with minimum training.



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

December proved to be a busy and pretty productive period as the first session of the 110th Congress came to a close. The full Senate confirmed James Peake, a former Army Surgeon General, as Veterans Affairs Secretary and President Bush swore him in as the sixth Secretary of Veterans affairs on December 21.

Congress also approved and sent to the President a \$555 billion "omnibus" spending bill, in lieu of the 13 annual department Appropriations Bills that were outstanding. (The Defense Department Appropriations Bill was previously passed and signed by the President.) In the 1500 page bill is a record budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs that is more than 3% larger than last year's budget. Among the items in the VA budget is \$165,000,000 for construction of state veterans' homes.

The final version of the 2008 Defense Authorization Bill was also completed and sent to the President. The really good news is that most of the issues we have been advocating during the year were included at least in some fashion in this bill as opposed to previous years when most of the Senate passed initiatives were lost in the joint conference. The items are too numerous to include in this short report, but included such things as a ban on TRICARE fee/pharmacy copay increases for FY2008, improvements to the DOD/VA interface, establishment of a minimum allowance to survivors of service connected deaths, expanded CRSC eligibility to disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, full concurrent receipt for those rated "unemployable", a 3.5% military pay raise, increased force levels, and specific authorization for veterans to salute the US flag vs hand over the heart. You can find a more complete listing of gains for 2007 at the MOAA website, www.MOAA.org, under Legislature, Our Progress, Selected Legislative Gains for 2007.

You can also find what MOAA sees ahead for next year under the Legislature banner and Selected Legislative Goals for 2008. Two key items to watch will be Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors and another DOD push for increases in TRICARE fees and copays. In December, the Congress passed legislation to provide for a 1% increase in TRICARE doctor reimbursements in lieu of the 9.9% decrease that was pending. However, the increase is only good for the first half year, with the Congress needing to come up with funding for the rest of the year to avoid a decrease of 11% that would kick in on July 1. Also,

the report of the congressionally mandated and DOD sponsored Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care released its final report on December 20. The results were as expected with recommendations for TRICARE annual enrollment fees, deductibles and pharmacy copays pretty much in line with what DOD has been recommending for the past two years.

Finally, at the state level, we will be watching closely for negative impacts to veterans programs that are sure to come about in conjunction with the expected state 2008 budget shortfall of between \$600 million and \$1 billion caused by our contracting economy. State law requires that the state budget be balanced, so the Governor and the Legislature will have to deal with the issue quickly. Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) of which MOAA is an integral member has sent letters to the Governor, the President of the Arizona Senate and the Speaker of the Arizona House expressing our concerns and stating that now is the time to be looking for more money for veterans and not less. The letters will be in place when the state legislature reconvenes in January and begins to deal with budget reduction recommendations which have been generated by the Governor's staff.

January Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: January 19, 2008
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
12:00 Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$19.00 - Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: 1LT Frank Helton of the Arizona Rangers

Reservations need to be received by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon date. Cancellations of reservations need to be received by that same Thursday in order to receive your money back or not be charged for lunch. Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form on page 7.

AZ Chapter MOAA Membership Renewal Notice

Thank you for your AZ Chapter support during 2007. Your support for our chapter has helped provide the basis for our scholarship program for outstanding valley area JROTC students; for our efforts to represent you on state and local legislative issues; for our actions - including our award winning **Sentinel** - to keep you involved and informed on these and broader issues affecting our military and retired community; and for our schedule of activities promoting camaraderie and friendship.

For most members, this serves as your notice that AZ Chapter dues for 2008 are due on January 1, 2008, and are delinquent 60 days thereafter. Here's how you can tell if you owe dues.. Look on the mailing label if you received your Sentinel by USPS. After your last name is a number – if it is **07**, your dues are due for 2008 A higher number indicates you have paid your dues in advance. Members that only receive the Sentinel by e-mail have received an electronic notification. If you disagree, please let us know.

ATTENTION AUXILIARY MEMBERS

A reminder to all auxiliary members that it is time to renew your annual dues of \$10. It is very important that you continue your membership in order to stay abreast of legislative issues that affect all of us. We as auxiliary members continue to enjoy benefits, such as Tricare for Life and the phasing out of the Survivors Benefit Plan age-62 annuity reduction. We are grateful to all who made that possible.

Jo Anne Thompson, Auxiliary Co-Chair

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

Arizona Chapter 2008 Membership Renewal Form

*Member Full Name: _____

*Membership Renewal: **\$20** Full member _____

*Membership Renewal: **\$10** Auxiliary member _____ (surviving spouse)

*I wish to receive the Chapter Newsletter (*The Sentinel*) by {select one}:
_____ **E-mail (in full color)** or _____ U.S. Mail (hard copy black & white)

*E-Mail Address: _____

(Please consider receiving the Sentinel by email ONLY to help reduce production cost)

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to:

**AZ CHAPTER MOAA
C/O Terry Tassin
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Glendale, AZ 85302**



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CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.**

General Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ [now a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor : _____ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ___ NO ___

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (**\$19.00** per person) for **19 January 2008**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 17 January 2008**

Send to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-690-1012**

The Arizona Chapter solicits advertisements for the purpose of defraying the cost of publication of the newsletter. The Chapter has not made any investigation as to the products and services advertised herein and makes no representation or warranties as to the advertisements in the newsletter. The Arizona Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America.

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**Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
4333 W. Echo Lane
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