



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

NOVEMBER 2008

CHARTERED 1956 - 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

Arizona Council of Chapters. The Arizona Council of Chapters meeting was held September 20 in Green Valley and a representative from each of the state's MOAA chapters attended as a voting member of the council. The council meets twice a year during the spring and fall.

Gary Fredricks represented our chapter while I stayed in the Valley to handle the ESGR awards luncheon. My thanks to Gary for doing another great job in representing the AZ Chapter.

The Council swore-in new officers for 2009 at the meeting. Elected were President: Maj. Vern Pall, USAF (Ret), Tucson Chapter; Vice President: Col. Ken Yamanouchi, USA (Ret), Luke Chapter, and continuing to serve as Secretary/Treasurer: Lt. Col. Dick Weidner, USMC (Ret), Luke Chapter.

Meritorious Service Awards.

We will honor 9 individuals at the November meeting who have provided exceptional support to the chapter during this and past years. This year's recipients are: Pat and Patricia Dale, Gary and Marie Fredricks, Bill Johnson, Ron Perkins, Chuck Schluter, Terry and Frances Tassin. This is just another good reason for you to join us in a fun day at the picnic.

Toys For Tots. Again this year I will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from members for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center for their Toys For Tots program at Christmas. I encourage all members to bring at least one toy for donation to this worthy program. Last year, the 9-12 year-old age group was the most difficult to accommodate. Stuffed animals are not desired. Please bring your donations to either the November picnic or the

December 20 luncheon meeting.

Attendance at Luncheon Meetings.

We seem to be experiencing a drop in attendance at our monthly luncheons. I encourage you all to participate in our activities and especially take part in our business meetings. Remember, "Each One Touch One." If you notice someone missing from our meeting, give them a call and tell them they were missed!

Finally, all members are encouraged to donate to our Scholarship Fund and chapter General Operating Account. Before you know it, May will be here and it will be time once again to support deserving JROTC cadets with scholarships.

I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. I am sure you are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season as much as I am.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

- November 6**
 - BOD Meeting, 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107
- November 15**
 - General Luncheon Meeting & Election of 2009 Officers, Desert Breeze Park, Chandler
- December 4**
 - BOD meeting, 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107
- December 20**
 - General Luncheon Meeting, Holiday Music & Chinese Auction

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FLY YOUR FLAG PROUDLY ON VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11

Gen. Browning Inducted into Veterans Hall of Fame

By Terry Tassin

The eighth annual induction ceremony of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame took place on October 25. The Hall of Fame is sponsored by Unified Arizona Veterans, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, and the Office of the Governor. It recognizes Arizona veterans who have honorably served their country through military service and who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

The Arizona Chapter is proud to count one of the inducted members of the Class of 2008 as a member of our Arizona Chapter. Brig. Gen. R. Thomas Browning, USAF (Ret), was inducted, along with 18 other new Hall of Fame members, at a luncheon induction ceremony with about 500 people in attendance. It was a grand event. Brig. Gen. Browning joins 11 previous inductees from the AZ Chapter of MOAA in this prestigious organization. Well done, Tom.



Brig. Gen. R. Thomas Browning is the Chapter's newest member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Vote at November Meeting

Chapter Staff Nominations for 2009

The following members have been nominated as candidates for office of the Arizona Chapter of MOAA for the year 2009:

President: Ronald Perkins

1st VP: Ron Worthington

2nd VP: William Johnson

Secretary: **Vacant and available**

Treasurer: William Johnson

Past President: Terry Tassin

Directors: John Ady, Ron Drew, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Chuck Schluter.

The election will be held at the November 15 picnic. We will also, as proper, request last minute nominations from the floor. Installation of new officers will take place at the January 2009 meeting.



HELP WANTED!!
**The Chapter still needs
volunteers for the
Secretary and Historian positions**

Here's your chance to serve our members and be involved in the Chapter leadership

Contact Ron Perkins
Nominating Committee Chairman
480-961-8632

AZ CHAPTER MOAA

IT'S A PICNIC!



November 15, 2008

NO BETTER TIME TO PICNIC IN ARIZONA!!

WHERE?

Desert Breeze Park

660 N. Desert Breeze Blvd.

(Between Ray & Chandler Roads and Rural & McClintock Roads)

Chandler, Arizona 85225

MENU



St. Louis Style Ribs, Texas Brisket, Georgia Chopped Pork, Wilber Beans, Cole Slaw, Drunkin Apples, Cornbread Muffins, Soft Drinks & Water, Dessert — Yummy!

Time: 11:00 a.m. Price: \$19 per Person

Please make your reservations early,
at least by Friday, November 7

The food is being catered by Famous Dave's legendary Pit Bar-B-Que and has to be ordered 1 week in advance.

Get those reservations to Bill Johnson as soon as possible
(Reservations Form on Page 7)

PROGRAM

Election of Officers for 2009
Presentation of Meritorious Service Awards



General Luncheon Meeting Notes for October

The General Membership meeting was held on October 18 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club with 25 present: 23 members and their spouses and two guests. Special entertainer Mr. Don Ford was introduced.

Toys for Tots Program: Members wishing to donate toys to this holiday program for needy children were asked to bring their new, unwrapped toys to the November picnic or December luncheon meeting. President Terry Tassin will deliver the toys for collection by the USMC Reserves.

November Luncheon Program: All were reminded that the program for November will be a picnic at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler.

Terry Tassin announced that the Chapter received the **Five Star Level of Excellence Award** for outstanding performance.

Nine members have been selected to receive the Chapter's MSA Awards which will be presented at the November luncheon to Pat & Patricia Dale, Gary & Marie Fredricks, Bill Johnson, Ron Perkins, Chuck Schluter, Terry & Frances Tassin.

2009 Staff Nominations: Nominees for 2009 elected staff positions are: President, Ron Perkins; 1st VP, Ron Worthington; 2nd VP, Bill Johnson; Secretary, Vacant - looking for one or two volunteers; Treasurer Bill Johnson; Directors: John Ady, Ron Drew, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Chuck Schluter; Past President, Terry Tassin.

If anyone is interested in helping out as secretary or chapter historian, please call Ron Perkins at 480-961-8632.

US Navy Birthday: Terry Tassin congratulated the Navy on its 233rd birthday.

Gary Fredricks gave a comprehensive report of current legislative happenings in the country.

The Silent Auction was wrapped-up with \$250 dollars going into the Scholarship Fund account.

Chapter 50/50 raffle was held with \$38 being paid out and \$39 entered into the Scholarship account. Winners were: **Sue Gilbertson**, \$19, **Ellen "Sully" Truesdell**, \$19.

Service Song Sing-a-Long: Don Ford played a medley of service songs and the members sang along.

Coming Attractions By Chuck Schluter



November 15: Special Event! The Chapter will host a barbeque picnic, present our 2008 Chapter Meritorious Service Awards and elect our officers for 2009. This special event will be catered by the renowned folks from Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que in the beautiful Desert Breeze Park in Chandler.

December 20: Christmas luncheon and holiday music by Don Ford, always an annual favorite. You will enjoy the board-hosted "Chinese Auction," so bring your smile and join the fun.

January 17: Installation of officers for 2009.

February 21: Our guest speaker will be Vickie Mullens, author of the famous "I Want You to Know Me" series. Every Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa can create a powerful family legacy by recognizing how to create the priceless "gift of yourself" to your loved ones.

March 21: Our guest speaker will be Chief of Police Alan Rodbell, Scottsdale Police Department. Chief Rodbell is a distinguished Law Enforcement Officer whose background, experiences and current position will provide a provocative presentation for our members.

Dues Are Coming Due

This note is a heads-up that Chapter membership dues for 2009 will be due on January 1.

Your financial support of our Chapter through dues and donations helps us continue worthwhile programs and activities, like JROTC scholarships, representation on issues affecting the military and retirees and promoting camaraderie among members.

Look for the membership renewal form in the December edition of *The Sentinel*.

Renewal for full members is \$20 and for Auxiliary members is \$10.

Donations

Scholarship Fund

Clare Gannon, \$50
Dan Germond, \$25
Sully Truesdell, \$19
Silent Auction, \$250

General Fund

Dan Germond, \$25

Fund Balances

Scholarship Fund,
\$7,681.66
General Fund,
\$9,742.30



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Outside of the economic situation and the elections, there is very little news to report in the way of state or national legislation. The state legislature has been out of session since late summer and is not scheduled to reconvene until early January. However, there are rumors that the Governor will call for at least some legislative planning work on the coming state budget to begin sometime shortly after the elections.

On the national scene, the Senate is set for a session beginning November 17. There is no current corresponding effort scheduled for the House. However, there are rumors that the House will also reconvene. Whether they do or not, the subject will certainly be the economy, and it is problematical just what a lame duck session will contribute anyway.

Some Successes

As we look back on the 101st Session of Congress and particularly the last year of it, we did have some successes. Many of our initiatives were not acted upon when the Senate elected not to consider the 300 plus amendments that were being proposed. However, for the first time in recent memory we actually have the FY2009 Defense Appropriations, Defense Authorizations, and Veterans Administrations Bills signed and in place rather than relying on a continuing resolution. For the second year in a row the VA budget increased in the neighborhood of 10%. This year the active military received a 3.9% pay raise, the DOD effort to substantially raise TRICARE and pharmacy co-pays and fees was headed off, and the pending decrease in Medicare payments to doctors was replaced by a small increase, to name just a few positives.

Although we advocate certain military and veteran issues legislatively, we are by definition a non-political organization. I recently had the opportunity to attend a veterans open house sponsored by the American Legion and VFW in Tempe at which Arizona Congressman Mitchell and Congressman Edwards of Texas were the featured speakers. I also had the opportunity to attend a breakfast with Senator Kyl that also featured a cameo appearance by Congressman

Shadegg. I call attendance at one Republican and one Democratic event roughly even and hence non-political.

I did find both events to be very interesting. From a non-political perspective, it is interesting to see how the same scene can be painted to look so differently by two different sets of painters while using essentially the same paint. On the more serious side, the one common thing I took away from both is that we are at a critical juncture of a difficult time. The results of this election will surely influence our lives significantly over the next few years. So, regardless of your particular political persuasion, please make yourself heard and get out and vote.

November Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: November 15, 2008
11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Desert Breeze Park
660 N. Desert Breeze Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona

COST: **\$19.00** Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Full Spread Barbecue
Catered by Famous Dave's
Pit Bar-B-Que

PROGRAM: Election of 2009 Chapter officers and presentation of Chapter Meritorious Service Awards.

Note the following change from the usual reservations procedures: Reservations need to be received no later than **Friday, November 7** in order to notify the caterer. Cancellations of reservations need to be received by that same day 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.



Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

I first want to report on the Personal Affairs workshop held as part of the Presidents' Symposium on October 16-18 in South Lake Tahoe.

The overall plan is for our Personal Affairs efforts to continue to support our retired and second career members but also increase our support to active service and drilling Guard and Reserve members. This means getting up to date on the new GI Bill and other programs which are applicable to those members.

I came away with the feeling that we are doing OK overall, but we still need to stress available MOAA services. Two incidents were discussed where a member is now in a very serious medical condition, but has not done anything to put personal affairs in order. We and other chapters have encouraged our members to obtain a copy of "Help Your Survivors Now" and to complete the "Personal Affairs Workbook" section. However, the work has to be done by the member and/or spouse. It was stated that very possibly the spouse doesn't even know that the publication exists. This would be a good time to let your spouse know about it, and both of you can get it done. The Personal Affairs Workbook can be filled out on line and saved so that you can keep it up to date.

Relative to keeping it up to date, I just updated my workbook after five years and made a bunch of changes. If you haven't updated yours in the past two years, you should take a look at it.

I will have a few copies at the November meeting, but you can get your copy much quicker from MOAA. For MOAA Members, FREE download is available from the MOAA National web site, <http://www.mooa.org>. You can also call toll-free 1-800-234-6622 to have a printed copy mailed to you. Have your member number readily available.

As always, please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns.



Arizona chapters receiving their 5 or 4 Star Level of Excellence Awards, with MOAA Board Chairman Mike Carns in the back row center.

Chapter Gets '5 Stars' at MOAA 2008 Presidents' Symposium

Ron Perkins and Dan Conway and spouses represented our Chapter at MOAA's 11th consecutive Chapter Presidents' Symposium, bringing together council and chapter leaders from MOAA's 15-state Western Region. Also attending from our Chapter was Chuck Schluter representing MOAA National. The symposium was held in South Lake Tahoe, Nev., Oct 16-18.

Over 180 chapter and council representatives attended the symposium from six state councils and 78 chapters. The fundamental purposes were to bring fellow council and chapter officers together to discuss the challenges we face in council/chapter management and to recommend actions that will help strengthen MOAA's chapter system.

The symposium included a full schedule of general sessions along with Leaders and Recruiting/Retention workshops, Personal Affairs workshops and an improved chapter communications seminar. A separate agenda for spouses included a lunch cruise of Emerald Bay and two briefings: Personal Affairs Update and Spouses and Chapters.

One of the highlights was at the Chapter Presidents' Dinner, where our chapter and several others were recognized with the "Five Star of Excellence Award" for 2008. That makes five consecutive years we have received this distinguished award.



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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 **15 November 2008**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 7 November 2008**

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

Welcome to New Chapter Member

**Capt Richard C. Winkler, USN (Ret)
and wife Carol**
425 E. Marigold Lane
Tempe, AZ 85281
Tele: 480-425-0146
Email: rwinkler@cox.net



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