



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

6393 W. Dublin Lane

Chandler, Arizona

85226

APRIL 2009

CHARTERED 1956 - 52½ YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



President's Perspective

by Ron Perkins

Spring has finally arrived with pleasant daytime temperatures and cool nights. Let's hope it remains that way for a few more weeks and the triple digit temperatures are late in coming.

We had an excellent turnout for our March luncheon with guest speaker Alan Rodbell, Scottsdale Chief of Police. He gave a very good description of the history, present status and future plans for the department. Everyone enjoyed the presentation, as well as the question and answer session afterwards.

On the 18th of this month, we will continue with our outstanding speaker program by having **Congressman Harry Mitchell** as our guest speaker. Congressman Mitchell is Arizona's 5th District Representative and is Chairman of the

Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He was also a co-sponsor of the "New GI Bill of the 21st Century." We've asked members of the Superstition Chapter to join us.

The start time has changed slightly to accommodate the congressman's schedule. The social hour will start at 11:30, lunch at 12:30 and speaker at 1:15 or so. I encourage you to make



Congressman Mitchell

plans to attend, for I am sure it will be a very informative session.

If you have a specific question that may need research, please forward to me and I will pass it along to the military liaison. We hope to have a large turnout between the two chapters.

Additional events coming this month are the selection of deserving cadets for the four JROTC scholarships, MOAA's "Storming the Hill" and our Personal Affairs Workshop.

First, the JROTC Scholarship committee, chaired by Ron Worthington, will review several scholarship applications and select four deserving cadets for \$1,000 scholarships.

Next, Gary Fredricks, our legislative officer, will join Vern Pall, Arizona Council President, and Mrs. Lisa Field, a member of MOAA's Spouse Advisory Committee, in Washington to participate in the annual "Storming the Hill." It is a 3-day symposium hosted by

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Arizona Chapter Calendar

April 2

- BOD Meeting, AZ Veteran's Home, 1100 hours

April 18

- Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 1130 hours

May 1

- Spring Golf, Painted Mountain G.C., Mesa, 0730 hours

May 7

- BOD Meeting, AZ Veteran's Home, 1100 hours

May 16

- Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 1100 hours

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS - FLY YOUR FLAG PROUDLY

President's Perspective.....continued

MOAA National and provides attendees a chance to visit their representatives and senators to promote veterans' issues.

We'll finish the month with our first **Personal Affairs Workshop** led by Dan Conway. It is scheduled for April 25 and is sure to be packed with lots of very useful information you can use. Be sure to check the Personal Affairs Workshop article in this edition for details.

The chapter received outstanding news from National MOAA Headquarters concerning the Annual Communications Awards contest. Every year MOAA National Headquarters holds the contest to identify councils and chapters which have:

- The best newsletters (printed and/or electronic),
- The best web site, or
- Initiated or implemented other types of unique communication efforts designed to keep MOAA members informed about significant issues.

There are five categories for judging depending on the size of chapter membership. Our chapter is in Category III: 200-299 members. We won the best electronic newsletter with "[Just In Time](#)" by Terry Tassin, and placed as first runner-up in the best web site with www.azchaptermoaa.org by Tom Houser. Well done Terry and Tom!! When you see them, please tell them thank you for all the hard work they have put in and congratulate them for their recognition again.



I am still beating the bush for someone to take my place as secretary. It is not a difficult job and I think you would enjoy contributing to our outstanding chapter. If interested please give me a call at 480-961-8632 or send me an email at rbperkins@cox.net



Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell, right, shares a light moment with Chapter President Ron Perkins at the March luncheon.

Police Chief Uses Technology, Planning to Reduce Scottsdale Crime

Scottsdale has experienced a double digit reduction in crime, and the city's per capita crime rate is lower today than it was in 1975. That's what Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell told chapter members during his talk as guest speaker at the March luncheon.

Chief Rodbell, a veteran of more than 30 years in law enforcement, said he focused on three priorities when he became police chief:

1. Technology. He said police agencies had traditionally been on the short end of technical development, but his department's use of tech systems has greatly improved efficiency.
2. Calls for service. He noted that not all calls are the same, but he has used technology to measure workload and assign officers to the street as needed.
3. Strategic planning. The department had a plan but it was inefficient. He drew a plan that assigned responsibilities and deadlines, and it undergoes frequent reviews and updates.

The chief also noted that information sharing internally and among jurisdictions has improved greatly. One result was the low incidence of problems at such recent high profile events as the Super Bowl and NBA All Star Game.

'Put on a Happy Face' and Have Fun at the Theatre Plan now for an enjoyable afternoon out of the July heat

The Chapter has a limited number of tickets reserved at The Arizona Broadway Theatre in Peoria
Sunday, July 12, at 12 Noon for the energetic Broadway musical

"Bye Bye Birdie"

\$55 per ticket includes:
Brunch, iced tea, coffee, water, gratuity.
Other drinks and dessert are not included.

Don't wait. Use the form below to send checks and reservations now so you don't miss out!

Reservations for the Arizona Broadway Theatre

Name: _____

Number of tickets @ \$55 each: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Send this form and check made out to **AZ Chapter MOAA** no later than June 25 to:

Fran Tassin
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302

Phone 623-931-1546



So, Who's Birdie?

And What's Elvis Got To Do With It?

The Broadway musical "Bye Bye Birdie" was inspired by the drafting of Elvis Presley into the Army in 1957.

The play's plot revolves around fictional Rock & Roll idol Conrad Birdie and the complications that arise when his agent stages a publicity stunt on the Ed Sullivan Show in which Birdie will kiss a lucky girl from Sweet Apple, Ohio, before being drafted into the Army. The lucky girl's boyfriend isn't too happy about that. The agent's secretary has some complaints, too. You'll have to see the play to learn how it turns out.

Bye Bye Birdie won a Tony Award as best musical in 1961.

Did You Know?

The name Conrad Birdie was a play on the name of Conway Twitty, a popular singer of that era.

Scholarship Awards

The JROTC Scholarship Committee will present four names to the Chapter Board this week for approval as recipients of \$1,000 college scholarships. The committee, headed by First Vice President Ron Worthington, evaluated and graded student applications from schools around the Valley to make the selections.

Triwest Healthcare Alliance will again sponsor one of the scholarships. The scholarship program is part of the Arizona Chapter's commitment to youth and the JROTC. It's an important way for outstanding students to further their education and work toward achieving their career goals.

The four winning cadets and their families will be guests at the May 16 chapter luncheon, where they will be presented their awards.

Meeting Highlights

by Ron Perkins, Secretary



Board of Directors, March 5, 2009

Membership: Dan Conway mailed 124 letters with MOAA brochures and application forms to former MOAA members from a list provided by national headquarters. Ron Perkins presented the treasurer a check for \$545 for cash incentives earned by the chapter for new members recruited during the 2008 "Give Me 10" campaign (\$290) and for rebates for new members received from MOAA during the special recruiting initiative in the October 2008 Military Officer Magazine (\$255).

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway has ordered several publications for the upcoming Personal Affairs Workshop.

A **\$50 donation** will be made to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Auxiliary Member Joyce Greene.

Nominations to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame are due to the Board by April 3.

The Board is working on a submission for the MOAA 5-Star Chapter Award.

General Meeting, March 21, 2009

Members present: 50

Treasurer's Report: General Fund, \$10,698.55; Scholarship Fund, \$11,187.65; Petty Cash, \$50; Total, \$21,936.20.

Guest Speaker: Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell gave an outstanding presentation, covering the department's past, present and future.

50/50 Raffle: \$70 was entered into the Scholarship Fund and \$65 was paid out to members who purchased raffle tickets.

April Luncheon: Congressman Harry Mitchell will be guest speaker.

Coming Attractions

By Chuck Schluter

April 18: Guest speaker will be U.S. Representative Harry Mitchell of Arizona's 5th Congressional District. Rep. Mitchell is a former mayor of Tempe and state legislator who now serves on several Congressional committees that are important to residents of Arizona.

May 16: Four outstanding JROTC cadets from area high schools will receive \$1,000 scholarships in a special presentation at our luncheon.

April Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: April 18, 2009
11:30 a.m. Social Hour
12:30 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch
Golf Club
7505 McCormick
Parkway,
Scottsdale

COST: **\$19.00** Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: Congressman Harry Mitchell will discuss current issues of interest to our members.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon. Cancellations need to be received by the same Thursday in order to receive your money back. Send your check to Bill Roscher using the Meal/Meeting reservation form on page 7.



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Storming the Hill

We will be departing on April 18 for Washington, D.C., to attend a MOAA Board of Directors meeting and MOAA's annual Council President's Symposium and Storming the Hill session. We are still working to firm up our Storming the Hill meetings with our Arizona Senators and Representatives on April 22, but expect to be able to visit all or most of their offices and discuss the issues with them or their key staff members. Unless something new and unexpected comes to light from further analysis of the President's annual budget request, we still plan on focusing our effort on sustaining the defense budget to fund both people and weapons, barring disproportional military/veteran health fee increases and eliminating financial penalties for military caused disabilities and deaths (SBP-DIC offset and Concurrent Receipt issues).

MOAA Helps Head-Off Faulty Proposal

The details of the FY2010 President's budget request will continue to unfold throughout much of April. One interesting facet that came to light in early March was a draft plan that would have the VA bill veteran's health insurance plans for the cost of treating their service-connected injuries and illnesses. I am sure that most of you read about it in the papers, but you may not have heard the rest of the story. MOAA was actively involved in heading off this ill-conceived effort before it really got off the ground. Our President, VADM (Ret) Norb Ryan, was one of 11 signers of a letter to the President sent on February 27 which described why this was a bad idea and asked for a meeting with the President if he planned to pursue it. At the President's invitation VADM Ryan and the corresponding leaders of the other 10 veteran's service organizations who signed the letter met with the President, his chief of staff and the VA Secretary on March 16 and later with his chief of staff on March 18.

In his weekly letter to MOAA board members VADM Ryan gave us his personal take on the events. He stated that he thought the President was ill-served by his staff for getting him to include such a lightning rod in his first cut of the

budget. However, he was impressed by the President's sincerity in taking the initiative to talk about it in person, the intelligent questions he asked and his ultimate good sense in making what had to be an embarrassing decision to drop the initiative.

Here is once again an example of why we need to continue to actively support MOAA and other veterans' service organizations. If it were not for the high esteem in which the organization is held, MOAA would not have been able to help rebut this issue, and another ill-conceived idea could have come to pass.

Tracking Critical State Veterans Issues

On the Arizona state level, the legislature is still focused on the FY2010 budget. The Senate is still not hearing any of the 20 veteran-related bills that had been introduced until after the budget is in hand. The House, on the other hand, has continued to hold committee hearings on its bills. Of the original 10 House veteran-related bills, three (including two we opposed) were dropped for no activity. Another was added through a provision called a "strike all amendment" which struck all the language of a previously introduced bill on repealing business personal property tax and added a desire of the Arizona Legislature to build a state veterans' cemetery in Tucson.

We will continue to track these bills, but our primary concern remains focused on how the state budget problems will affect the Arizona Veterans Services Department. All departments have been asked to provide an assessment of what impact there would be if their department budgets were cut in 5% increments from 5% to

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Fund Donation

Many thanks to the following member for a generous donation to the chapter's Scholarship Fund.

Jeff Young \$50

One person's donation to the Scholarship Fund or General Fund helps support the education of our youths and keeps the chapter strong.

Personal Affairs Workshop

*By Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer*

Our planned Personal Affairs Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Scottsdale Via Linda Senior Center, located at 10440 East Via Linda Road. Via Linda is south of Shea. The best route from the West is east on Shea, south on 96th Street, and then east on Via Linda. The Center is on the north side of Via Linda.

Subjects to be covered by Dan Conway and John Ady include the following:

End of Life Planning

Help Your Survivors Now, MOAA Publication 1-601.
Personal Affairs Workbook, included in Publication 1-601.
Aging Into Medicare & Tricare For Life, MOAA Publication 1-907.
Durable Power of Attorney, Funds Available to Meet Expenses.

Estate Planning

Financial Planning Guide, MOAA Publication 1-905.
Estate Planning, MOAA Publication 1-909.
Payment on Death, Transfer on Death and Beneficiary Deed in Lieu of Living Trust.
Quicken WillMaker.

How Things Go Wrong

Personnel Officer Experiences.
Will not changed after divorce.
SBP goes to first spouse in event of divorce.
Will not valid in current state.
Need to have current ID Card and stay current in DEERS.

There is room for 50 attendees, and we have publications for 24 attendees. We plan to provide one set of publications per family. We currently have reservations for 13 families (either couples or individuals). Our publication limit means that we have room for 11 more families who will be accommodated on a first called basis. If you wish to attend, please call me at 480-368-1427 and I will confirm if room is available. There is no charge for the workshop.

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

Legislative Update

Continued from Previous Page

25%. The department could handle the lesser number but would be pretty much devastated at the higher ones. Of particular concerns are funding to maintain the staff of 40 Veteran Benefit Counselors (VBCs) which have been added after much effort over the last two years and the state share of construction funding for a proposed veterans' home in Tucson. The VBCs are state employees who help veterans get through the complex process of applying for and qualifying for federal VA benefits. They not only help our veterans, but also bring millions of

dollars of federal VA funding into the state each year.

Our state-required 35% share of funding for a new veterans' home is \$10 million, which has been in the budget for the last two years. We have been unofficially advised by the VA that the stimulus package will fund 68 projects on the VA construction priority list with the Tucson home sitting at number 67. This is really good news provided that the VA priority list doesn't get changed and, most importantly, that the state keeps its 35% required share in the state budget. Without it, we drop off of the VA list altogether. We will see how this develops over the next few weeks.

JROTC Medal Presentations Set to Begin at High Schools

Many thanks to the chapter members who volunteered to represent the Arizona Chapter at JROTC award ceremonies at 17 Valley high schools this year.

The volunteers will present medals to JROTC cadets in their junior year who have been recommended by their instructors based on the cadets' potential for military leadership.

This program is another way MOAA recognizes standout students and encourages them to excel in their lives.

Presentations will begin April 17 and continue through mid-May in ceremonies at the schools.

JROTC Awards Chairman Terry Tassin notes that any presenter who has a conflict should contact him at 623-931-1546 to arrange an alternate presenter.

Advertising Policy

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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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 Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050**.

General Fund: \$ _____

[now a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ 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 **18 April 2009**

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

No Later Than: **16 April 2009**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050** Phone: 480-948-3609 E-mail: wroscher@cox.net

AZ CHAPTER MOAA SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

INTERESTED IN A SUPER DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP?

WHEN: Friday, May 1, 2009. Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m. Check-in between 6:15 - 7:15 a.m.

WHERE: Painted Mountain Golf Club, 6210 E. McKellips Road, Mesa.

COST: \$57, includes cart fee, green fees, delicious buffet lunch and a few bucks left over for prizes and the Scholarship Fund. Remember, the proceeds from Mulligan sales (*2 for \$5 unlimited number allowed - unused Mulligans are not refundable*) go directly into the Chapter's Scholarship Fund, so buy lots of Mulligans when you check-in. You might need them, and even if you don't, the money is for a good cause!

WHO: Members, guests and anyone else wishing to support the youth of the Valley of the Sun.

DRESS CODE: No special dress code other than you must keep your clothes on; however, collared shirts are recommended. Soft spikes on golf shoes. You may wear sneakers.

WHAT: Reservations and \$57 fee must be received by **April 22**. Please mail fees and the form below to **Pat Dale**; phone 480-661-5204 or email Pat at patrickdale1@cox.net if you have questions.

SPECIAL RULES: Handicaps will be determined using the Calloway system. Use of a Mulligan is not allowed on Longest Putt, Closest to Pin or Longest Drive holes. (i.e., must use first drive for Closest to the Pin or Longest Drive, and first putt for Longest Putt). Additional rules and prize information will be available at check-in, if necessary. This is a very friendly, fun tournament. You do not have to be a good golfer to play and have fun with this group. We do have a couple of "good" golfers, but they just have to put up with the rest of us.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL WITH CHECK -----

AZ CHAPTER MOAA GOLF TOURNAMENT

I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND - COUNT ME IN!

HERE IS MY REGISTRATION SLIP AND ENTRY FEE.

Name: _____

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

(Please Print)

I would like to be partnered with: [names] _____

Mail entry slip and fees to:

Pat Dale
12633 E. Kalil Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Make checks out to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Check for \$_____ included for _____ players (\$57 each).





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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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