



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

JANUARY 2009 CHARTERED 1956 - 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

Passing the Gavel

Dear MOAA Friends - and I count you all as my friends.

This is the last President's Perspective that I will be penning for the *Sentinel*. However, I will be staying on the team and I hope to be submitting articles periodically.

Before I go, I wish to thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your President. These past two years seem to have gone by in the blink of an eye. Never a dull moment, never a problem without a solution, and never a lack of support or ideas on how to make things work! It's been a great experience, and on January 17th I hope you can join me as we welcome the incoming President, Ron Perkins, and our new - and some not so new - Chapter Officers.

After our guest speaker's program and a special presentation of

three Meritorious Service Awards, we'll have a brief installation ceremony, pass the gavel, and together we can begin our support of the new leadership.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Chapter Officers who stood watch with me during my tenure. Every one of them added value and enthusiasm to each function, and they worked very hard, with you in mind!

A very special appreciation is owed to the membership at large. Your attendance at the meetings, your generous support throughout every month, every program, and special event made it possible for the Arizona Chapter to participate, to grow, to enjoy, and to contribute to each other, our service brethren, and our communities. Our Christmas meeting was

evidence of that continuing support. We had a full house with nearly 70 in attendance. The food was great, music by Don Ford was wonderful and the Chinese Auction was full of laughter. I think everyone went home with a festive spirit in their heart. Moreover, so many of you brought toys that we delivered two big boxes to the Marine Toys for Tots program. You are the heart and soul of the Chapter and certainly you are the reason this Chapter exists. Thank You!

While I'm on the subject of you - our members - our membership renewal program for 2009 is well along thanks to you who have renewed early. For the rest, I can only hope that our efforts have won your support for another year and you will send in your dues for 2009 to me very soon.

So dear friends, in closing, let me say it's been a pleasure. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as your President, I appreciated the advice

Continued on Page 2

Arizona Chapter Calendar

January 8
• BOD meeting, 1100, AZ Veteran's Home

January 16
• Luncheon Meeting, 1100, McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Officer Installation, Guest Speaker Bill Wolf

February 5
• BOD meeting, 1100, AZ Veteran's Home

February 21
• Luncheon Meeting, 1100, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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

and support, the good times and satisfying work. Perhaps we could have done a bit more, but certainly we could do no less! Please join me at the January 17 luncheon as with humble gratitude I will turn over the gavel to Ron Perkins and offer my unconditional support and salute to him and our Arizona Chapter staff as they embark on their quest to serve you, our military, and our Nation!

Warmest Regards Always,

Terry Tassin

LCDR (Ret) USN
President, Arizona Chapter MOAA



**From the President-Elect
by Ron Perkins**

I want to thank President Terry Tassin for his outstanding work over the past two years. During his presidency the chapter has been very successful, exemplified by the numerous awards and recognitions received such as; 2007 and 2008 Chapter Five Star of Excellence for its exemplary performance, 2007 and 2008 Winner for Print Newsletter, 2007 and 2008 Winner for Electronic Newsletter, 2007 and 2008 First Runner-Up for Chapter Web Site.

Terry's leadership was very instrumental in all these successes. To the Chapter members I offer my thanks for your confidence in electing me president for this coming year. We have a good combination of new board members with seasoned ones agreeing to stay on for 2009. In addition to the board members we also have a great group of committee chairmen who are very experienced and dedicated to the success of the chapter. There is still one position that needs to be filled and that is the chapter secretary.

I would like to find someone to take over my current position as secretary. It is not a difficult job and one I think anyone would enjoy doing. If you are interested, please give me a call.

For 2009, our major initiatives will continue to be our JROTC Awards, Scholarships, Personal Affairs, Legislative and Membership programs, and our Social Program with pleasant monthly meetings/activities and interesting speakers. Sources of funding will continue to be a high priority. A busy and challenging year lies ahead of us. Our success will depend on continued member support.

January Meeting

New Officers, Aviation History

In addition to installation of 2009 officers, the January 17 members' meeting/luncheon will feature a fascinating audio-visual presentation by Dr. Bill Wolf, retired dentist and World War II aviation historian.

Dr. Wolf has possibly the largest private WW II collection in the world. He has written eight books on WW II air combat, with a ninth due in March. His collection includes thousands of photos and artifacts from the war.

Make plans now to attend this informative program.

Auxiliary

**VA Resolves Problem with
Surviving Spouse Payments**

The Veterans Affairs Department is taking action to identify and pay surviving spouses who are eligible to receive a one-time pension payment or compensation for the month of the veteran's death. Spouses who mistakenly had to repay the money also are included.

Spouses who never applied for survivor benefits are the ones most likely affected, according to VA.

The VA is attempting to identify eligible recipients, but a Survivors' Call Center also has been opened to assist spouses who believe they are entitled. The call center number is 1-800-749-8387. The center is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday Arizona time. Inquiries also can be submitted online at:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/survivorsbenefit.htm>

Welcome to New Chapter Member

**Col. Ken R. Allen Jr., USA (Ret)
And Wife Renate**

1520 W. Augusta Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85021
Tele: 602-870-8623
Email: kra8825@cox.net

**Maj. Eugene Wikle, USAF (Ret)
And Wife Susan**

818 W. Allen St.
Phoenix, AZ 85041
Tele: 480-236-1658
Email: gene.wikle@yahoo.com

Sandra C. Fox, Auxiliary

8780 E. McKellips Rd. #513
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
Tele: 480-228-8804
Email: puttnfish@hotmail.com

**Maj. Heddi Mlodzik, USAF (Ret)
And Husband Michael**

7446 E. Russet Sky Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85266
Tele: 480-488-6806
Email: heidrun@cox.net

Capt. Paul Jungel, USMC (Ret)

744 E. Hayward Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Tele: 602-861-3568
Email: pauljungel@qwest.net

Susan Tracy, Auxiliary

2504 E. Rocky Slope Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85048
Tele: 480-759-3246
Email: stracy10@yahoo.com

Please take a moment to meet and greet
these new members of our Chapter.



Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

Life Care Planning Materials

Life care planning is very easy with forms provided by the Arizona Attorney General. Shown below is what you will see if you go to: www.azag.gov/life_care/ All required forms with instructions are available to be downloaded.

Life Care Planning
Advance Directives / Health Care Directives / Living Will
Message from Attorney General Terry Goddard

Life Care Planning is an important task for all of us, whether young or old, healthy or facing challenges. Through increased awareness and access to information, Arizonans of all ages can make their choices known about who will manage their affairs in the event of an emergency. My Office has recently produced *Life Care Planning for Everyone*, a short video presentation that will encourage open discussions so that well reasoned choices can be made **before** an emergency – choices that will significantly reduce stress on families.

Life Care Planning documents are available at no cost from the Attorney General's Web site (see link above) and from our Office. Requests for presentations can be made through the Attorney General's Community Services Program at 602-542-2123.

Life Care Planning Materials

- Greetings from the Attorney General
- General Information about Arizona laws related to future incapacity
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Life Care Planning
- Life Care Planning forms with instructions:
 1. Durable Health Care Power of Attorney
 2. Durable Mental Health Care Power of Attorney
 3. Living Will (End of Life Care)
 4. Letter to my Agent (Representative)
 5. Pre-Hospital Medical Directive (Do Not Resuscitate)

Don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. Dan Conway, 480-368-1427.

November Board and Member Meeting Summaries

Coming Attractions
by Chuck Schluter



Board of Directors, December 4.

Present: Terry Tassin, Ron Perkins, Dan Conway, John Ady, Bill Roscher, Gary & Marie Fredricks, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Rob Welch, Chuck Schluter, Ron Worthington, Jim Cullison.

Terry Tassin has ordered JROTC medals for the 17 schools the chapter supports.

Gary Fredricks briefed on the 4 primary MOAA areas of concern for 2009: Active/Reserve Force issues, Healthcare, Retirement/Survivor issues, and Veterans/family and other issues. A detailed description of these areas can be viewed on MOAA's Web site under Legislative Action.

Terry Tassin reported that current membership is 194. The chapter goal is to have 200 members by the end of 2008. Several of the names provided by National under the year-end recruiting initiative have signed up for chapter membership. The chapter has 11 "Give Me Ten" new members.

A suggestion was made to schedule a Personal Affairs workshop for members. John Ady, Bill Roscher and Dan Conway all volunteered to put together a Personal Affairs presentation.

Marie Fredricks confirmed the chapter has 40 seats reserved for the Broadway Dinner Theater in July. Ron Worthington's motion to have a picnic in October and host the ESGR Award Recognitions passed unanimously.

Gregg Maxon suggested the chapter investigate doing a joint event with the Arizona Guard or Reserve. Chuck Schluter will look into the options.

Ron Worthington gave a brief summary of the JROTC Scholarship timeline for awarding the scholarships.

Chuck Schluter made a motion to donate \$500 to the Arizona National Guard Emergency Relief Fund. It passed unanimously.

Everyone who contributes to the chapter's web site was reminded to review their inputs and keep them up to date.

The board changed the start time for BOD meetings to 1100-1300.

The board agreed to continue competing in the following three MOA communication award categories: Print Newsletter, Electronic Newsletters and Web Site. Terry Tassin volunteered to submit the chapter's inputs.

Member Luncheon, December 20.

The General Membership luncheon/meeting was held December 20 with 69 members and guests present. Christmas music was provided by Don Ford.

Treasurer Bill Roscher reported that the General Fund had \$6,596.11 and the Scholarship Fund \$9,902.90 for a combined total of \$16,499.01

President Terry Tassin reminded everyone that it's time to renew membership for 2009. Dues remain the same: \$20 for regular members and \$10 for Auxiliaries.

Several members donated toys for needy children for Terry Tassin to deliver for the USMC Reserves' Toys for Tots program.

The January program will be at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Guest will be Bill Wolf, who will speak on WW II aviation and munitions.

Meritorious Service Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters were presented to Gary Fredricks, 3rd OLC; Marie Fredricks, 1st OLC; Ron Perkins 1st OLC; Terry Tassin, 4th OLC; Fran Tassin, and Chuck Schluter, 4th OLC. Pat and Patricia Dale were absent and will receive their awards in January. Bill Johnson's MSM also will be presented posthumously then to his wife Nina.

A Christmas Chinese Auction was moderated by Ron Perkins where several gifts were chosen by the lucky raffle ticket holders. Board members donated all the gifts. The raffle ticket money, which amounted to \$278, went to the scholarship fund.

January 17: Installation of officers for 2009. Historian and author Bill Wolf of Fountain Hills will present an informative presentation on World War II aviation, drawing from his vast collection of memorabilia.

February 21: Our guest speaker will be Vickie Mullens, author of the "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 Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell. Chief Rodbell is a distinguished law enforcement officer whose background and experiences will provide a provocative presentation.

Fund Donations

General Fund

Robert Stimming \$50
Ron Perkins \$25
Dan Germond \$50
Eleanor Pickett \$25

Scholarship Fund

Michael Grady \$25
Ron Perkins \$25
Chuck Schluter \$50
June Bryan \$25
Doug Gray \$20
\$300 was donated to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Bill Johnson



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

As 2008 comes to a close, and we await the beginning of the 2009 legislative year at the state and federal levels, the overwhelming issue that pervades everything else is the “R” word – Recession. It is becoming increasingly clear that it will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Within this scenario I found a recent article by MOAA’s Government Relations Director, Steve Strobridge, to be enlightening. The article titled “As I See It – Prioritizing in Hard Times” was contained in the weekly MOAA legislative update and can be viewed on the MOAA website at www.MOAA.org.

Steve points out that the January Washington Scene column of *Military Officer* lays out our goals for the year, with the goals running seven pages. He notes that prioritizing is required, because it is not possible to succeed with that many actions in any given year. We will always highlight the most severe inequities, but prioritizing in practice is often a continuing work in progress that is strongly influenced by economic realities. Also influencing the process is the support or lack of it from key congressional cosponsors and their sympathetic staffers.

This year the reality is that we have an economic crisis. This in no way means we should not continue to stand up for our military, our veterans, their families and survivors. Almost everyone is still also predicting that for the foreseeable future the country will face a period of “persistent conflict” which will continue to tax our military’s capabilities.

We have the added unknown of a new Administration that is coming together rapidly, but the details of its policies are still pretty much unknown. We no doubt will see a reduction in our military presence in Iraq, but will likely see a corresponding increase in that presence in Afghanistan, at least in the short run. Historically, there has always been a propensity to seek a “peace dividend” when a major conflict, such as Iraq, begins to wind down. We can anticipate some of that this year. On the legislative side, we also have unknowns as we will be losing some staunch supporters such as Senator Warner and Congressman Duncan Hunter. We can anticipate an interesting, if difficult, year ahead with our goals sure to be in a state of flux as the unknowns become realities.

Against this background, we begin the year with a clear understanding of our issues. Our immediate goals are well thought out and clear. The top 10 in no particular order are: sustain defense budget funding, sustain the projected manpower increases, pursue needed fixes for wounded warriors and their families,

resist shifting health care costs to beneficiaries, reverse Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts, end the DIC offset to SBP, end any deduction of VA disability benefits from military retired pay, restore military pay comparability, upgrade Guard/Reserve retirement and health programs, and improve military family support. The current thinking is to focus on sustaining the defense budget, resisting health care costs to beneficiaries and fixing SBP inequities during our April Storming the Hill event.

On the state level, we see similar circumstances with a new legislature to be seated in early January, Secretary of State Jan Brewer deeply involved in her transition to Governor and a state budget deficit forecast for over \$1.2 billion this year and more next year. We are already halfway through the state fiscal year, leaving only the second half to rectify the current budget shortfall. The first order of business has to be the current deficit. Fundamentally, Arizona state law says you can’t have one. Immediately thereafter, the business will be establishing the budget for next year. Any other bills that effect veterans are not likely to receive much attention this year.

Our best approach at this time seems to be in supporting the Arizona Department of Veteran’s

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January Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: January 17, 2009
11:00 a.m.

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

COST: \$19.00 Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Something Yummy

PROGRAM: Installation of 2009 Chapter officers; audio visual presentation by Historian Bill Wolf on World War II aviation and aerial combat.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon. Cancellations 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 Roscher using the Meal/Meeting reservation form on page 7.

2009 Membership Renewal

by Terry Tassin

I again have some good news and some not so good news. The good news is that as of January 1 the Chapter had **194** members! The bad news is to date only **61** of those have renewed their memberships for 2009.

I urge you to check the year following your name on the newsletter mailing label to see if you have an **08** after your name (if you get the *Sentinel* by mail) and if so, you need to renew. If you feel we have made a mistake let us know so we can resolve it. If you receive the *Sentinel* by email, I recently sent you a copy of the roster indicating to what year your dues are paid-up.

We've made progress in maintaining or restoring benefits over the last few years. Let's continue to be active to make sure we don't lose any benefits that have been restored. Get behind the Arizona Chapter and National MOAA and send the membership renewal application below to me. Don't hesitate. And while you're at it, a donation to the General and Scholarship funds would be appreciated, too. Our Chapter maintains its strength through its membership.

Frank Birtciel Hands Over Reins after 8 Years as Chapter Historian

Chapter Memories by Frank Birtciel

The new millennium was rounding the corner when I took over from Bill Adams, so it has been eight years of taking pictures and recording what went on in the Chapter.

The Chapter 50th anniversary was a wonderful memory of so many working together to put on a really good party. The various Presidents, each with their own style, have kept the Chapter running and in good financial order.

Wonderful kids of the JROTC have passed through our Scholarship Program, some now in the military and others well into their careers. The medal awards that Chapter volunteers have presented to other cadets is another fine program. If you haven't made the trip to one of the high schools to present a medal to a cadet, try it some time.

I want to thank all the officers, directors and committee members I've been associated with over these years. They have been a pleasure to work with and dedicated to making the Chapter one of the best, as indicated by the many awards and ribbons on our MOAA Flag.

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

[Arizona Chapter 2009 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 to help reduce production cost)

Any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc: _____

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

Mail renewal application and check to:

AZ CHAPTER MOAA
C/O Terry Tassin
4333 W. Echo Lane
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 Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050. Phone 480-948-3609, e-mail: wroscher@cox.net.**

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 **17 January 2009**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 15 January 2009**

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

Legislative Update...Continued from page 5

Services (ADVS) as much as we can. To that end, both the Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) which I chair and the Arizona Veteran's Advisory Service Commission on which I serve have written letters to Secretary of State Brewer recommending that she retain Joey Strickland, the current Director of ADVS, in that same capacity in her administration.

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

**Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
13819 N. 51st Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254**



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