

Minutes of the February 2010 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

Following the Boeing Helicopter Plant tour, a luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on February 20, 2010 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation. Ron thanked Chuck Schluter for coordinating the Boeing Tour which was extremely well received by all those that participated.

Members Present: Total people present: 47; 41 members & 6 guests.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$7,519.96 and the Scholarship fund is at \$12,032.43 for a total of \$19,552.39.

StandDown: Ron Perkins gave a brief overview of the recent StandDown event which was sponsored by the Arizona Veterans Organization. Several of our members volunteered during the event which served over 800 homeless veterans. Ron shared a few statistics of those veterans attending: 57% had no income, 11% employed, 29% living on the streets, 33% in transitional housing, 38% had some form of housing, and 5% attending were female veterans. The top five needs identified were legal assistance, housing, identification/driver's license, medical, and employment. The StandDown provided help in all these areas, even legal support to clear warrants in some cases.

JROTC Medals: Per Terry Tassin all medals have been delivered and presenters scheduled for all school locations.

Membership Drive: John Ady and team are working to increase our chapter membership back up to 200 and beyond (currently at 196). John requested everyone bring in a buddy and reiterated that the first year chapter membership dues are waived. Dan Conway has put together membership kits that include brochures and applications. Active duty personnel also receive free membership to National. Anyone interested in recruiting can call John or Dan to receive a membership kit in the mail. Ron Perkins also reminded those that have not renewed to please renew ASAP.

Programs: Chuck Schluter reviewed the upcoming monthly schedule of programs planned for the remainder of the year and first quarter 2011. Next month Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official state historian will be our guest speaker along with Billy Walker. The 2010 agenda is packed with excellent presentations and social activities:

April: LTC Hoyt Slocum, 161st ARW, AZANG:

May: JROTC Scholarship Recognition

Jun: No Meeting

Jul: Arizona Broadway Theatre "Footloose"

Aug: No Meeting

Sep: Eric Landau - Remembering 9/11.

Oct: Picnic & ESGR Employer Recognition Event

Nov: Chapter Awards Event

Dec: Christmas Party

Jan: 2011: 'Captain' Billy Walker - Air America & AZ Lafayette Escadrille

Kathy Upchurch is planning a meeting with the auxiliary members focused on spouses. She has called most of the auxiliary wives and will have specifics in the near future.

Legislative Report: Gary Fredricks reiterated the need to address the 21% TRICARE/Medicare payment cut scheduled to be effective March 1st unless action is taken. The current deficit makes this a particularly sensitive political issue. Gary suggested members may want to read Colonel Steve Strobridge's "As I See It" article in the MOAA website at www.moaa.org. He also urged everyone to go to www.moaa.org website legislative action tab to submit a prewritten letter requesting this issue be appropriately addressed. Gary highlighted a number of other proposals and issues being addressed. At the state level, 24 bills were introduced related to the military in 2009. This year 48 bills have been submitted and none of them will require additional funding such as proclaiming a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day and free license plates to Gold Star families.

Defense Biometric Identification System at LAFB: Ron Worthington outlined the new requirements for base access. Anyone requiring routine access to the base needs to register their identification card. It's a simple process including scanning your existing card and electronic fingerprinting. The process only takes about five minutes and applies to all retired military and their dependents. Once completed, you should be able to enter any military base. Ron suggested registering before July 1st. After July 1st it will require scanning at the gate and processing at the visitor center which may be a lengthy process.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$170 with \$105 going to the foundation; six prizes were awarded: three \$5, one \$10 and two \$20 for a total of \$65 awarded.

March Meetings: Ron Perkins suggested everyone dress in Western wear for the March 20th meeting featuring Marshall Trimble, AZ State Historian. He also reminded everyone that the next Board meeting is March 4th and open to the membership.

Adjournment: 2:11 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Secretary