



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

6393 W. Dublin Lane

Chandler, Arizona

85226

JANUARY 2010 CHARTERED 1956 - 53½ YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



### President's Perspective

by Ron Perkins

#### Reflections/Projections

The holidays are over and the New Year has begun. As I try to collect my thoughts on what to write, I realize that I am very fortunate to serve as your President for another year. I work with an outstanding group of officers and board members that certainly have gone above and beyond. We have received National recognition for our Electronic Newsletter "Just In Time", our chapter's web site and the "Five Star of Excellence Award".

I am happy to report that we were able to accomplish almost all of our goals last year. The one goal we missed was to increase our membership to over 200 members and as of 1 Jan 2010 we had 195. I know we can do better. This year the chapter has established a recruiting committee that will work on new strategies to bring in new members.

This is a yearlong effort and a doable goal. The goals for 2010 have not changed much from 2009.

**Goal #1** is to continue to build our membership base to 200 plus.

**Goal #2** is to continue support for MOAA National objectives by emphasizing the letters, postcards and e-mails to encourage our elected officials to

support the issues that National has identified.

**Goal #3** is to make our chapter an enjoyable association with monthly luncheons and interesting speakers, service to community projects affecting veterans, and add an occasional outing to the Arizona Broadway Theatre or a picnic in a nearby park.

**Goal #4** is to continue support for our current chapter programs which include the awarding of JROTC monetary Scholarships (4 x \$1,000 scholarships), JROTC medal awards for 17

Continued on Page 2

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

##### January 7

- . BOD, AZ Veterans Home, 1100 Hours

##### January 16

- . General Meeting/ Luncheon, Guest Speaker Neville Cramer discussing immigration issues, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Social Hour 1100, Lunch 1200 Hours

##### February 4

- . BOD, AZ Veterans Home, 1100 Hours

##### February 4-7

- . Arizona Homeless Veterans Stand Down, State Fairgrounds

##### February 20

- . Tour of Boeing plant, information to come in February Sentinel

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#### A Caroling We Will Go

The Dickens Carolers added to the festivities at the December luncheon. There was more luncheon fun, too. See Page 3.

## 2009 — A Very Good Year for the Arizona Chapter

The year 2009 is history, and it was good history for the Arizona Chapter. The chapter and our members logged an impressive array of achievements and activities during the year. Following are the highlights:

### Donations

The Board of Directors authorized \$2,000 to purchase a 50-inch plasma HD television and

### **President's Perspective...**

continued from page 1

Arizona schools, provide personal affairs advice, support of local TOPS, and color guard representation at the National Cemetery on Memorial Day.

**Goal #5** is to decrease the cost of mailing the monthly newsletter *The Sentinel*. If you have e-mail and are receiving *The Sentinel* by mail, let Jim Cullison know that you would rather receive it by e-mail.

Chuck Schluter, our Program Chairman, has built an excellent agenda of speakers and activities for 2010. Starting in January, our speaker is Neville Cramer who had a 26-year career in law enforcement with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He has written several books on immigration problems and solutions.

In February, chapter members can volunteer to help out with the Arizona Stand Down starting on February 4. See the AZ Stand Down article later in *The Sentinel* for details.

Then on February 20, chapter members will take a tour of the Boeing Apache Helicopter manufacturing plant in Mesa. Those are great programs to start the year off and we have lots more exciting speakers and activities planned for the upcoming months. You won't want to miss any of them.

Let me close by thanking you all for your membership that allows all this to happen and to the Board of Directors and committee chairs for their friendships and hard work. Let's have another great year.

*Ron Perkins*

sound system for the Veterans Hospital recreation room.

The Chapter donated \$500 to the Arizona National Guard Emergency Relief Fund and \$500 for the Homeless Veterans Stand Down scheduled for February 2010.

Another \$200 was donated to the JROTC and Armed Forces Career Officers Day luncheon, allowing six JROTC cadets and two chapter members to attend.

### Community Service

Four chapter members served as a Color Guard to honor deceased veterans at the Memorial Day commemoration at the National Veterans Cemetery in North Phoenix.

The Chapter hosted the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) at an October picnic to present awards to four employers for outstanding support of military members called to active duty.

In addition to providing financial assistance, the chapter also recruited members to work at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

Members donated toys for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Christmas project.

### JROTC Support

Four outstanding JROTC cadets were awarded college scholarships of \$1,000 each from the chapter's scholarship fund.

Members presented JROTC Medals to high achieving cadets at 17 area high schools.

The spring and fall golf tournaments raised \$2,600 for the scholarship fund.

The 50/50 raffle at the monthly luncheons raised another \$828 for the scholarship fund.

### Personal Affairs

Dan Conway and John Ady conducted a free Personal Affairs Workshop for members and spouses.

Dan also assisted several widows throughout the year in the transition following death of their spouses.

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## Christmas Cheer at the December Luncheon

Following entertainment by the Dickens Carolers, those attending the December luncheon enjoyed a Chinese Auction, with gifts provided by the Board of Directors. The purchase of raffle tickets gave the buyers a chance to have their number drawn and then choose a wrapped gift of their choice, or "steal" one already chosen by someone else. It made for a lively afternoon and a boost to the Chapter Scholarship Fund. All raffle sale proceeds, \$277, went to the fund. Some of the action is shown below.



Sully Truesdell got a second chance at a gift after Tom Houser, (below) with eye for champagne, stole her first selection. It was all legal.



Roger Scharzter carefully sizes up his gift choice.



Clare Gannon got just what she wanted, a Christmas tie. Well, maybe not.



Terry Tassin looks pleased with the gift he unwrapped.

## 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 e-mail [terrytassin@cox.net](mailto: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 to find out which schools we support each year. The actual award presentations take place during the latter part of April and the month of May.

## Keep Your Membership in the AZ Chapter Current

Don't forget that Chapter membership renewal for 2010 was due on January 1.

Your financial support of our chapter through dues and donations helps us continue worthwhile programs and activities, like support for veterans and military-related organizations, representation on issues affecting the military and retirees and promoting camaraderie among members.

Renewal for full members is \$20 and for Auxiliary members is \$10. Use the form below.

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

### [Arizona Chapter 2010 Membership Renewal Form](#)

Member Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2009 Highlights *Continued from Page 2*

### Other Highlights

The Chapter was awarded its fifth 5-Star Level of Excellence Award by MOAA National.

MOAA also presented Communication Awards for the Chapter's website and the "Just in Time" electronic newsletter.

The chapter and several members received recognition in MOAA national publications for the TV purchase, ESGR support and personal affairs activities.

A yearlong series of informative luncheon programs was highlighted by a presentation in April by Arizona Congressman Harry Mitchell, who discussed veterans affairs and legislation.

Two Chapter members, Carl Schneider and the late Bill Jenkins, were inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

The Arizona Broadway Theater was the scene for another summer chapter outing when 26 members, spouses and guests had a meal and watched a performance of "Bye Bye Birdie" in July.

So as the book closes on 2009, members can be proud of another year of service to veterans, young people and the community by the Arizona Chapter. Happy New Year.

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

Mail renewal application and check to:

**AZ CHAPTER MOAA  
C/O Bill Roscher  
4337 E. Sands Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85050**



**Personal Affairs**  
by Dan Conway  
Personal Affairs Officer

## A Cautionary Tale

Over the past three months, Laurie Roberts has been writing articles in the *Arizona Republic* about an 88-year-old widow, Marie Long. Marie's time line goes like this:

**2003:** Husband died, left \$1.3 million in a trust. No surviving children.

**2005:** Suffered Stroke. Niece who lived in California and who was a beneficiary of the trust took over managing money. Moved her to San Diego assisted living center.

**2005:** Returned to Scottsdale. California niece removed as beneficiary but continued as trustee in charge of money. Court-appointed guardian hired another company to supply 24-hour companion caregivers at a cost of \$9,000/month.

**April 2006:** Court-appointed guardian began supplying care at \$10,000 to \$15,000/month plus guardian fees in excess of \$1,000/month.

**October 2007:** Moved to private assisted living center at lower monthly cost. Legal bills increased. Guardian fees increased to \$20,000/month.

**December 2008:** Assets reduced to \$352,000.

**June 2009:** After legal bills of \$381,000, money was gone.

**October 2009:** Moved into welfare nursing home.

**December 2009:** Declared indigent. A different niece appointed guardian.

A part of the story is that Marie's sisters continuously complained about her care, which caused the guardian to incur legal bills, and when the court-appointed attorney complained about the legal bills, the legal bills increased to defend against his complaints, and that the Maricopa County Superior Court system failed to act in a timely manner on complaints of excess charges.

What can we learn from this situation?

**First,** it is important that we name a responsible Financial Power of Attorney.

**Second,** the Financial Power of Attorney should know that if you become incapacitated

and he or she can no longer look after you, the Arizona Department of Veterans Services provides fiduciary services. Such services are available to all veterans and dependents; not just retirees. The saddest part of the Marie Long story is that her late husband was a Marine vet, and she was eligible for such services.

Please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns. My phone is 480-368-1427.

## Arizona Stand Down For Homeless Veterans February 5-6-7, 2010

The Arizona Stand Down for homeless veterans is a very big undertaking and need lots of volunteers.

In 2008, 502 homeless veterans were served. Three percent were women. In 2009, 743 veterans were served. Six percent were women, which indicates an increase in the numbers of homeless women. This year, organizers are preparing for 1,000 veterans at the Veterans Coliseum at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

The chapter plans to help with volunteers, and if you are interested please contact Ron Perkins at 480-961-8632 or e-mail [rbperkins@cox.net](mailto:rbperkins@cox.net).

Volunteers are needed the day before on February 4 to help set up. Dates and shift hours are: 10-2 and 2-6 on 4 Feb; 7-12 and 12-5 on Feb 5, 6 and 7.

The veterans will be transported from all areas of the valley to the fairgrounds, where they will be fed, clothed, and housed. There will be a VA Medical unit with doctors, dentists, psychologists and nurses. New underclothes, shoes and used clothing will be given out. Showers and haircuts will be provided and efforts will be made to urge many into programs and housing.

One of the great successes is the court system's ability to clear warrants and issue new driver licenses. In 2009 they cleared \$139,000 worth of warrants by giving community service.

Some of the organizations and government agencies that take part are Phoenix Municipal Courts, Department of Economic Security, Social Security and the Motor Vehicle Division. The Phoenix Health Care System that runs all the VA hospitals and clinics provides the medical care. In addition, many agencies that help the homeless are in attendance.

All of these agencies are coordinated by US Vets, Inc., a non-profit group that runs facilities for homeless veterans.



## Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

### Some Questions as 2010 Dawns

As the Sentinel goes to press this month, Marie and I are enjoying a cruise in South America from Rio to Santiago. So, I have more questions this month than I have answers.

Among the more significant questions are these:

Did the Arizona Government finally come to grips with our state budget debacle, or will the next legislature inherit the problem once again?

Did our Federal Government come to any consensus on what to do with the health care reform initiative? And, if it did, what did it finally really say about Medicare and TRICARE?

Finally, did we get some kind of legislation passed that gets rid of the 21% cut to Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors that was scheduled to be effective January 1, 2010.

I hope that when we return to the good ol' U.S.A. that all these will be behind us – but being something of a cynic I don't really expect that will be the case.

### 2009's Positive Accomplishments

No matter how the above turns out, we still had a pretty good year in 2009 given all the problems the state, country and world faced during the year.

If you visit the MOAA website at [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) you will find a list of Selected Legislative Gains for 2009 under the Legislative tab. There are some 32 of these listed covering the military/Guard/Reserve, veteran, survivor and family waterfront. Among the more significant ones were authorization for a 3.4% pay raise to the military, barring the Pentagon from implementing any TRICARE inpatient care co-pay increases in FY2010, authorizing an additional 30,000 troops for the Army and improving and clarifying several areas of medical care and benefits for wounded warriors, other military members, their families and survivors.

In the same area you will find 36 Selected Legislative Goals for 2010 covering a similar

waterfront. There is always a prioritization process that occurs each year because you can't expect to accomplish anything without some focus. That prioritization process will ultimately be influenced by the outcome of some of the questions raised above as well as what goes into the President's FY2011 Budget.

At this time the top MOAA priorities for 2010 include (1) Sustaining the Defense Budget at not less than 4% of GDP, (2) Continuing to pursue the open health care fixes/fee issues, (3) Fixing the concurrent receipt issue for members whose service-caused illnesses and injuries forced their medical retirement from active service and (4) ending the deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from SBP annuities when the member's death is service-caused.

On the state level, the budget drills will likely persist for the next couple of years at least. We will need to maintain constant vigil to make sure that the budget trimming process does not inordinately affect the Arizona military/veteran community.

### Mark Your 2010 Calendars

In addition to a timely topic in January (See page 7) the Chapter's upcoming programs offer a wide range of speakers and activities for members. Here are some of the plans for the months ahead.

- A tour of Mesa's Boeing plant, where the Apache helicopter is assembled, in February.
- Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official state historian, in March.
- The commander of the Arizona Air Guard's 161st Air Refueling Wing Operations Support Squadron in April.
- JROTC scholarship presentations in May.

#### Recent Donations General Fund

\$5 Anonymous

#### Scholarship Fund

\$50 Jim and Beth Cullison

\$25 June Bryan

\$38 Anonymous

\$5 Anonymous

**January Luncheon**  
**The Inside Story on Immigration**

Neville Cramer, a 26-year veteran with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, will give us insights on immigration issues as our guest speaker in January.

His background includes service as a border agent and police officer in Arizona. He was one of the most experienced INS special agents upon his retirement. He has written two books on immigration and has been featured on radio and TV programs addressing the subject.

**January Luncheon Meeting**

**WHEN:** January 16, 2010  
 11 a.m. Social Hour, 12:00 Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
 Scottsdale, Arizona

**COST:** \$19 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU** Chef's Choice

**PROGRAM:** Discussion of immigration issues by Neville Cramer, one of the top authorities on the subject with 26 years' experience in the field.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 14. Cancellations need to be received by the same day in order to receive your money back. Use the reservation form below.

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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 with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.**

**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 **16 January 2010**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **14 January 2010**

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






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

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