

Minutes of the May 2010 Board of Director's Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

Call to Order: President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 1030 hours, Thursday, May 6, 2010, at the State Veteran's Home on North Third Street in Phoenix with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: John Ady, Dan Conway, Beth Cullison, Jim Cullison, Pat Dale, Gary Fredricks, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Ron Perkins, Bill Roscher, and Rob Welch.

Minutes: The previously promulgated Minutes of the last Board of Directors' meeting (April) were approved.

Golf Report: Pat Dale reported the golf tournament had a great turnout with 85 players (87 paid), netting about \$1700. There were 19 sponsors for the Spring tournament paying \$25 each and TriCare paid \$500. Pat researched McCormick Ranch Golf Club for the fall tournament. The costs would be \$80: \$55 plus a \$15 lunch and \$10 for prizes. Pat requested authorization to sign a contract with McCormick Ranch. Gary Fredricks made a motion seconded by Beth Cullison to hold the next tournament at McCormick Ranch October 22nd for \$80 per person. The motion passed unanimously. Pat said people do not have to play to participate; for \$15 they can come and enjoy lunch and watch others golf.

Messinger Mortuaries Cell Phones for Soldiers: Pat Dale introduced Jim Vickers from Messinger Mortuaries who also sponsored a hole at our April golf tournament. Mr. Vickers explained the mortuaries have been supporting a program to collect used cell phones to exchange for calling cards for service members stationed overseas. Some service members do not have the funds to call home and this is the only program of its type. Messinger Mortuaries, which are family owned, have drop boxes at all their mortuary locations. An individual person or group can even be designated to benefit. Each calling card includes 60 minutes of usage. The Board agreed to promote this program in *The Sentinel* and Pat Dale volunteered to be responsible for a donation box to be available for used cell phone donations at our general meetings.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported that the chapter accounts stand at: \$9,612.21 in the general fund, \$14,280.66 in the scholarship fund for a total of \$23,892.87. Bill also noted our scholarship fund now meets the chapter guidelines to award 50% of the fund for scholarships, (seven \$1,000 scholarships for \$7,000). Ron Worthington will provide the names for Bill to issue the scholarship checks.

JROTC Medals: Ron Perkins reported for Terry Tassin that approximately 50% of the medals have been awarded. Terry Tassin has done a great job.

Legislative: Gary Fredricks spent a full week working on MOAA legislative issues in Washington, D.C., meeting with the board, committee meetings, preparing for Storming the Hill and finally participating in Storming the Hill. Numerous issues were addressed including recommending an additional half percent pay increase above the proposed 1.4% pay increase for active duty, making three months credit towards retirement for Guard and Reserve people retroactive to September 11, 2001, include military not currently covered if disabled in combat, and other offsets. Gary said everyone seems on board with the MOAA recommendations except for the central concern of how to pay for it. There is a military study underway on the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. MOAA only wants the law changed if a change is recommended by the military. Another concern is that the health care reform proposal claims long term savings but ignores the 21% potential decrease in medical payments. MOAA is also concerned that the Deficit Commission may not come up with a consensus. Everything is on the table, but if something is not implemented immediately it will cloud issues of revenues and expenses over the next several years. The question is how to implement something equitably. MOAA will continue following closely. Another concern is defense budget cuts. Ron Perkins repeated the need to respond to MOAA action items and that spouses can also send the MOAA e-mails which doubles our efforts of communicating with Washington.

Membership: Beth Cullison reported, with the recent additions, we are now at 195 members. Several officers have been making recruitment calls to National members in our area that do not currently belong to a local chapter. John Ady expressed concerns over the huge excel spreadsheets received from National and all agreed to focus on National members recently moving into our zip codes. Ron Perkins brought five new chapter member applications for Beth to update the roster and notify National. Ron Perkins asked John Ady, Dan Conway, Gregg Maxon & Beth Cullison to stay after the Board meeting to further discuss recruiting efforts.

Newsletter: Jim Cullison completed and distributed the May edition of *The Sentinel* on April 29th. Anyone not receiving *The Sentinel* or meeting minutes should contact Jim or Beth Cullison or Ron Perkins. We believe Cox is now accepting and forwarding e-mails from the Cullisons.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway contributed an excellent article on budgeting for May's *The Sentinel*. Dan recently visited Hospice of the Valley and will include an article in the September edition. Hospice of the Valley is paid via Medicare while other hospice organizations are private. Dan also plans to write an article based on Mr. Vickers' presentation to support the cell phones for soldiers program. Dan requested topics for future personal affairs articles and John Ady said he will put something together for a future article.

Scholarships: Ron Worthington was not able to attend today's meeting due to illness but will provide a list of scholarship winners to Bill Roscher to issue the checks. Ron Perkins will create the certificates. TriWest has donated \$1,000.

Old Business:

AVHOF (Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame) Nominations: Our Chapter has four nominations for selection to the AVHOF: Gary Fredricks, Ron Green, Dick Hoover, and Rance Farrell. Ron Perkins sent the submission for Gary, Chuck Schluter sent a write-up on Rance Farrell, Ron Green submitted Dick Hoover and General Carl Schneider sent the nomination for Ron Green. There are a total of 59 submissions. The plaques from previous years' winners are displayed on the second floor of this Veterans Home and our chapter is well represented.

Memorial Day Color Guard: Rob Welch, John Ady, Paul Fein and Jim Cullison plan to participate. Dan Conway will bring the flags. Proper attire was reviewed and Ron Perkins will notify participants of exact times and parking instructions.

2010 AZ State National Guard Conference: Our chapter will be staffing a table to recruit national and chapter members on May 21st and 22nd. Gregg Maxon, Rob Welch, Pat Dale, Jim Cullison & Ron Perkins will staff the table. Gregg & Jim agreed to arrive early for set up. Those staffing on Saturday should sign up for the box lunch. A banner, brochures, pens and giveaways should be available for hand-outs. Jim Cullison suggested an 8X10 sheet be available to tell prospects why they should join our chapter. John Ady agreed to develop the hand-out. Our chapter will receive full credit for everyone we sign up in the "Give Me 10" program.

Five Star of Excellence Award: Ron Perkins mailed the application on April 28th. There will be a meeting of four and five star winners this fall in Washington, D.C.

AZ StandDown: Ron Perkins and Ron & Bette Green attended a reception the previous week which included thanking all those that provided support and a summary of the many successes in helping homeless Vets. Ron Perkins noted a couple of the homeless Vets have now cleaned up and set up a facility downtown to provide help such as meals and sleeping quarters. In addition to the annual major event, there has been discussion to develop full time, year round StandDown support.

New Business:

AZ Council of Chapters Meeting: The meeting will be held on May 20th & 21st. Gary & Marie Fredricks, Dan Conway, and Ron & Betty Perkins plan to attend.

ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve): We plan to recognize several ESGR employers at our annual October picnic meeting. However, the McCormick Ranch Railroad Park is not available for our regularly scheduled October meeting date. Therefore we will hold the picnic recognition luncheon one week later on Saturday, October 23rd.

Nominating Committee Selection: Ron Perkins asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to nominate candidates for the Chapter's elected offices for 2011. Rob Welch volunteered to chair the committee along with John Ady and Ron Green.

MSA Committee Selection: Ron Perkins requested volunteers for the Meritorious Service Award selections. The committee will gather data to use in selecting recipients for this year's Chapter MSAs. Gary Fredricks will chair the committee with members Terry Tassin and Dan Conway.

Luncheon meeting greeters:

May – Gary & Marie Fredricks, Kathy Upchurch

September – Ron Perkins will ask Kathy Upchurch for Auxiliary members

Good of the Order, Roundtable:

Guest Speaker: Pat Dale will approach Chuck Schluter with a suggestion for a guest speaker at a future meeting.

Golf Tournament: Pat Dale requested funds for new golf scoring software not to exceed \$50. Gary Fredricks moved and Beth Cullison seconded the allocation of up to \$50 for the purchase. It was unanimously approved by the Board.

2010 AZ State National Guard Conference: Gregg Maxon finalized staffing for May 21st & 22nd. More information on the event can be found at www.ngaaz.org.

StandDown: Ron Green explained the entrance to the new site is on the north side of the downtown YMCA building and suggested a tour of the facility is very worthwhile.

Membership: Beth Cullison requested new membership forms include key information such as a phone number and e-mail address when available. Recently, she received a couple memberships missing information which made it difficult for her to contact the new member for complete information required for submission to National. The Board also agreed you must be a paying member to receive *The Sentinel*, meeting minutes, and other information published by our chapter.

Next BOD Meeting: 2 September 2010

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1228 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Cullison, Secretary