

Minutes of the May 2010 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on May 15, 2010 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

Members Present: Ron Perkins welcomed all including JROTC scholarship recipients, their family members, JROTC instructors and Mark Babbitt from TriWest Healthcare Alliance. Total people present: 60; 37 members & 23 guests.

Armed Forces Day: Ron Perkins reminded everyone that today, May 15th, is Armed Forces Day and May is Military Appreciation Month. President Harry Truman, in a speech announcing the formation of the day, praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas saying it is vital to the security of the nation and to establishing a desirable peace. In 1953 President Dwight Eisenhower said it is proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose courage safeguards the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported as of May 1, 2010 the General Fund is at \$9,612.21 and the Scholarship Fund is at \$14,280.66 for a total of \$23,892.87. Bill also announced \$123 was collected for today's raffle with \$63 going to the scholarship fund and \$60 to be awarded.

Legislative Report: Gary Fredricks said the State Legislature ended their session April 29th passing 14 bills that are military/veteran related although many are basically superficial. Gary quickly summarized his recent trip to Washington, D.C., working on MOAA legislative issues and participating in "Storming the Hill". He was able to meet with all our senators while in the D.C. area. Although numerous issues were discussed, their focus was on advocating an additional half percent pay increase above the proposed 1.4% increase for the military, giving the Guard & Reserve retirement credit for time served in Southeast Asia retroactive to September 11, 2001, eliminating the SBD/DIC offset and correcting inequities that make disabled military retirees and their survivors forfeit a part or all of their service-earned compensation when a death or disability was service-caused. Six of our eight Representatives had already signed on to cosponsor the SBD/DIC fix bill. Gary said it was a good experience, adding that Senator McCain said a 21% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments would never happen but paying for it is the big issue.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway shared a recent experience that we all should be aware of. Dan received a phone call from his grandson (he thought), saying his grandson was being held in a Canadian jail and needed money to get out. The calls were very persuasive but Dan phoned his grandson's house directly and found the grandson was actually at home. This is a new scam that is proving to be very successful at swindling money from unsuspecting and loving grandparents. Dan will be publishing an article on these scams in an upcoming *Sentinel* publication.

Broadway Theater Outing: Marie Fredricks urged everyone to sign up for the dinner and play, Footloose, slated for Saturday, July 17th. Include family and friends. The price, \$50.50, includes dinner, play, coffee/tea, sales tax and gratuity. It's sure to be a fun time for all. Reservations and payment must be to Marie by June 25th and the sign-up form is available in the May *Sentinel*.

September Program: Ron Perkins indicated the September meeting topic, "Remembering 9/11", will be very interesting with guest speaker Eric Landau who was in New York on September 11, 2001. Ron also explained a representative from Messinger Mortuaries met with the board about Messinger's support for a program to collect used cell phones to exchange for calling cards for service members stationed overseas. Each phone earns a 60 minute calling card. Pat Dale will bring a collection box and asked everyone to donate their old cell phones at the September meeting. More information will be published in September's issue of *The Sentinel*.

Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Presentation of JROTC Scholarships: Ron Perkins explained that each of the seven Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps students were being recognized for maintaining an exceptional scholastic standing, demonstrating excellent qualities of leadership, displaying good moral character and caring for others through community service. Ron thanked the scholarship committee, Ron Worthington, Terry Tassin, Ron Green, Rob Welch & Bill Roscher. They reviewed twelve applications and presented seven names at the May Board meeting. All seven were unanimously approved to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Ron called each recipient up to the podium to present a certificate and the check. Upon receiving their award, each recipient said a few words about how much the award means to them and their plans for the future. Following are the winners:

Anthony Rios-Gurrola, North High, Army
Jacob Hernandez, South Mountain High, Army
Jaryd Kayle Burt, Sandra Day O'Connor High, Air Force
Feather Rain Alcantar, Alhambra High, Army
Peyton Sullivan, Sandra Day O'Connor, Air Force
Michael Meyer, Cortez High, Navy
Kyle Gabrielson, Cactus High, Air Force

Mark Babbitt, Senior V.P. of TriWest Healthcare Alliance, co-presented the scholarship to Michael Meyer. Ron Perkins thanked TriWest for their strong support of our scholarship fund and presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Babbitt.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$123; Bill Roscher awarded seven prizes: four \$5, two \$10, and one \$20 for a total of \$60 awarded.

Closing: Ron Perkins reminded all to attend the July outing at the Arizona Broadway Theatre and to bring your friends and family. He also asked the scholarship winners to stay for a group picture immediately following the meeting.

Adjournment: 1:26 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Secretary