

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

Call to Order: First Vice President Gregg Maxon filling in for President Ron Perkins, called the meeting to order at 1039 hours, Thursday, November 4, 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, Rance Farrell, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Terry Tassin, Kathy Upchurch, and Rob Welch.

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

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Gregg Maxon read the treasurer's report provided by Bill Roscher. The chapter accounts stand at: \$9,366.30 plus \$50 petty cash in the general fund, \$8,700.31 in the scholarship fund for a total of \$18,116.61.

Auxiliary: Kathy Upchurch reported 19 auxiliary members & member spouses attended the October 23rd planning meeting to jumpstart an auxiliary/spouse organization. Those present chose to do a community service project such as coordinating bingo or keno at the Arizona State Veterans Home. Kathy e-mailed spouses & auxiliary members with an invitation to participate in today's bingo game to learn what it would take to host a monthly game. She also set up December 2nd and December 3rd for those not able to participate today. After these sessions a determination will be made on providing a monthly game at the Veterans Home.

Membership Roster: Beth Cullison reported we have continued to add new members with current membership at 226. John Ady indicated National MOAA is introducing the *Lost Patrol Program*, offering chapter incentives for recruiting lapsed National members. National is providing a list of lapsed members to recruit from.

Legislative: Gregg Maxon explained key issues continue to be TRICARE, medical payments and the defense budget. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is looking for major budget cuts, raising a concern about retiree benefits. John Ady indicated an article in the *Military Officer* magazine on dealing with the deficit, previously mentioned by Gary Fredricks, is an excellent article and recommended everyone should read it.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway recently helped one of our auxiliary members with questions about health insurance and TRICARE for Life. Dan indicated his November article in *The Sentinel* focused on funerals but he will attempt to focus on more positive issues in next month's edition. Gregg Maxon mentioned there is a military medal emblem available for headstones that some members may not be aware of. There was a discussion on surviving widow/er pensions and benefits. Kathy Upchurch suggested service organizations such as the VFW should be able to help answer questions or go to the Veterans Administration website and search "pensions". A brief discussion and motion was tabled concerning new members and luncheon meetings.

Programs: Chuck Schluter sent an e-mail which Gregg Maxon shared listing upcoming program plans:

- January 2011 – Captain Billie Walker, former Air America pilot, who will be inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame on March 26, 2011.
- February 2011 – LTC Hoyt Slocum, Ops Officer, 161st AZANG Air Refueling Wing. The 161st is a local unit with global missions.
- March 2011 – Col Jill Nelson, who currently commands the Counter Drug Interdiction units of the Arizona National Guard and all units assigned to Border Security.

Gregg announced the Copper Sword Award/Copper Shield Award recognition is scheduled for February 11, 2011. Scott Essex, ESGR, and AZ Representative Frank Anetori, Tucson, will be recognized. The shield is presented to legislators who have defended veterans and military while serving in office, and the sword is for a civilian who has worked for the betterment of those who serve in the military.

Rob Welch reported his initial research for purchasing a projector for the chapter revealed they cost roughly \$1,000. Rance Farrell said unless it's needed frequently, it may make sense to just continue borrowing one. There were several suggestions on where to borrow one. Rob will check with Paul Fein, and John Ady said he may provide a referral. A projector will be needed for the January meeting.

Web Master: Rob Welch has been working on our website. He is converting to *Go Daddy* as our domain provider. Rob is working with the software and reviewing all the information on our website. He will use the National MOAA template as a guide so will be developing a completely new look. Terry Tassin suggested he also look at the chapter websites that have won awards. Rob reported he is about halfway done and hoping to be done by early December. There was a discussion about the possibility of signing up and paying for the luncheons through our new website and Rob will investigate.

Historian: Jim Cullison has several updates for the website once the new site is up and running and Rob is ready to add new information.

Old Business:

Meritorious Service Awards: Gregg Maxon reported the certificates are ready and Terry Tassin has the two new medals needed.

AZ Council of Chapters Meeting: John Ady reported that he along with Ron Perkins and Gary Fredricks participated at the October 19th meeting. John said they are really on top of regulatory affairs. Our chapter will host the May 2011 Council of Chapters meeting which falls a day before our monthly meeting. Marie Fredricks, Jim Cullison, & Ron Perkins will work with John Ady on the logistics for the meeting. Our chapter will host a dinner and plan an activity for the spouses, probably a tour of the new Musical Instrument Museum. There was a discussion on venues and activities from previous meetings including possible hotels for out-of-town attendees.

Chapter Operating Instructions: Gregg Maxon reported the revisions to the Chapter Operating Instructions are complete.

State Fair Volunteers: John Ady ushered at the demolition derby along with Paul Schnur. Ron Perkins also volunteered at the Veterans information booth. The time worked earns credits for next February's StandDown event.

New Business:

AUSA JROTC & Armed Forces Career Officer Day Luncheon – MOAA is sponsoring a table at the luncheon. John Ady and Jim Cullison will attend. Rance Farrell said it is a great event but would like to see more Marine Corps and Navy former officers attend. It cost \$200 to sponsor a table, \$100 for half a table or \$30 per person. Kathy Upchurch agreed to help get the word out to other organizations.

2011 Officer Elections: Gregg Maxon reminded all that elections will take place at our next luncheon meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Swearing in will take place at the January 2011 meeting.

Proposed By-Law Changes: Proposed changes were published for member review in the November edition of *The Sentinel*. These changes will be voted on at this month's general membership luncheon meeting.

Luncheon meeting greeters:

November: Terry & Fran Tassin, Dan Conway

December: Ron & Bette Green, Kathy Upchurch will get an auxiliary member to-be-determined

Good of the Order, Roundtable:

Dues: Jim Cullison reminded annual dues will soon be due. Terry Tassin made a motion seconded by Ron Green to leave the annual dues at the same rate. The motion passed unanimously.

Toys For Tots: Terry Tassin will be collecting new unwrapped toys at the November & December luncheon meetings. No stuffed animals or toy weapons will be accepted.

Events: Kathy Upchurch attended a reception the previous night for the Phoenix School of Law. The school is working to establish a free law clinic for Veterans. Kathy also discussed the annual fundraiser luncheon, "Heroes One and All". This event has grown to over 500 attendees bringing in funds for the Veterans parade and other veterans' needs. Kathy expressed concern that many are not aware of this fundraising activity, and Gregg Maxon said he will check with the luncheon committee on getting the word out.

AVHOF (Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame) Induction: Dan Conway recognized two of our chapter members, Gary Fredricks and Web Ellis, who were inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

John Ady: John announced he would not be available for the December luncheon meeting but agreed to provide gifts for the December meeting gift raffle.

Rance Farrell: Rance said he has signed up for the upcoming golf tournament. Terry Tassin said Pat Dale indicated there are more signed up than the previous tournament so it promises to be another successful fundraiser for the scholarship fund. Rance said the JROTC schools are invited to the JROTC luncheon but there may be others interested that do not currently have a JROTC program. There are no JROTC programs in the Scottsdale schools. If anyone knows of other schools or kids who may be interested, let Rance know.

Book Fair: Ron Green said the Lutheran Church on Scottsdale Road South of Dixileta is having a book fair this weekend. There will be some great bargains especially on Sunday.

Website: Rob Welch thanked everyone for their patience and help in getting the website up and running.

Veterans Treatment Court: Gregg Maxon said a new committee has been formed and should have the first phase addressing veterans on probation up and running soon. He indicated Arizona is behind the rest of the country but progress is being made and being implemented in phases.

Next BOD Meeting: 2 December 2010

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1157 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Cullison, Secretary