

Minutes of the October 2010 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

The picnic luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on October 23, 2010, at the McCormick/Stillman RR Park. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

Minutes: Ron Perkins dispensed with reading the prior meeting minutes.

Members Present: Total people present: **59**; 49 members/spouses, 10 ESGR guests, 1 family guest. Ron Perkins welcomed all including new members Hanna Schwartz and Corey Harris from the 492nd Civil Affairs Unit. Ron then introduced each of our special guests from the ESGR, local employers receiving an award along with those who nominated them. Chet Baumer's son, David, was also introduced.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$9,051.37 plus \$50 petty cash and the Scholarship fund is at \$8,532.22. That brings the combined total to \$17,633.59.

U.S. Navy Birthday: Ron Perkins wished the United States Navy a belated birthday. The U.S. Navy, established on October 13, 1775, celebrated its 235th birthday.

AVHOF: Make your reservations now if you have not already done so for the annual Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame luncheon. Ron Perkins announced two of our chapter members, Gary Fredricks and Webb Ellis, will be inducted into the AVHOF on October 29th. The AVHOF annually recognizes and honors Arizona veterans who have honorably served their country through military service and who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime. Based on a show of hands, many chapter members are planning to attend. Reservations can be made on-line at www.avhof.org, but seating is limited.

Chapter Golf Tournament: The Fall JROTC Scholarship Fundraiser golf tournament will be held on November 12. Ron Perkins suggested non-golfers can offer their support by sponsoring a hole for only a \$25 donation. Sponsoring a hole means your name will be prominently displayed on a stand by the tee. Ron also suggested golfers ask their friends to form a four-some to play. The tournament is always fun and raises a large portion of our JROTC scholarship fund. Pat Dale is the contact for reservations or sponsorship.

MOAA Capital Event in D.C.: Ron & Betty Perkins will be traveling to Washington on November 15th to attend a function hosted by National MOAA. They will be joining seven other Arizona Chapter Presidents and will receive the Five Star Level of Excellence ribbon awarded to our chapter. This is a prestigious award and is the sixth consecutive year our chapter has earned it.

Cell Phones for Troops: Ron Perkins showed the collection box available to turn in old cell phones. The box is available at every meeting and each phone collected provides a 100 minute phone card for troops overseas.

Lunch: Marie Fredricks planned and coordinated the luncheon catered by Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que. The menu included several choices, plus a decadent chocolate desert, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR): Ron Perkins provided a glowing introduction of Chuck Schluter who has been involved in ESGR for many years. Chuck is a long time member of our chapter, previously serving as chapter president, chapter board member, a past National board member, AZHOF member, our current program chair, and the current Outreach Coordinator for the ESGR. He explained ESGR is dedicated to help military personnel and their employers. ESGR is a Department of Defense organization. Chuck spoke of the significance of employer support for the Guard & Reserve as we are engaged in the longest war in our history. We are engaged at unprecedented numbers with the Guard & Reserve who have been escalated to "operational reserve" rather than "ready reserve". As Chuck explained, 48% of the boots on the ground and shoes on deck are Guard & Reserve. We were at 132,000 Guard & Reserve deployed and currently down to 98,000, although that number may rise again. That speaks to the importance of employer support for their Guard & Reserve employees. If not for their employers, we would not have viable Guard or Reserve support.

Butch Wise, ESGR Executive Director, recognized the support and collaboration received from this chapter. Butch commended our chapter as the first engaged to work on collaborative efforts with ESGR. He was happy to report other Arizona chapters have now picked up on it: Green Valley, Luke, and now Sierra Vista. Butch also recognized Scott Essex, ESGR Chairman, for his dedication and untiring efforts. He explained their motto is, “*We All Serve*”. ESGR staff members work on many community outreach projects on a volunteer basis. Butch mentioned two units currently called to active duty are coming home to Arizona tomorrow. Butch explained we are recognizing the dedication and support provided by these ESGR award recipients. As he said, without the support of these great patriots, our nation would be severely hampered in achieving and fulfilling our national security objectives. The Overseas Contingency Operations, Rescue & Humanitarian Missions, and Relief Efforts simply could not be accomplished without their support. Butch thanked these companies for their dedicated and patriotic support, which is critical to the freedom we enjoy. The awards are designed to recognize employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements at a personal or corporate level for supporting Guard and Reserve employees. Ron Perkins and Chuck Schluter assisted in presenting the following awards:

Seven Seals Award – Dan Conway accepted for **USAA**, nominated by PO1 Nicholas Curry, USNR

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Above & Beyond Award – Brandi Haskins, Principal of **Westview High School**, nominated by SSG Benjamin Geiger, USAR

Patriot Award and Above & Beyond Award – Greg Rodzenko, Assistant City Engineer & Jonathan Flatt, Senior Material Technician, **City of Glendale Engineering**, nominated by SFC Brian Low, USAR

Above & Beyond Award – Jason Schrott, Senior Executive Director of University Development & Military Outreach, **Grand Canyon University**, nominated by MSgt Alan Munro

Above & Beyond Award – **Maricopa County Department of Transportation**, award accepted by SMSgt David Cross, USAFR who also nominated them for the award

Butch closed the presentations by thanking the Military Officers Association of America, Arizona Chapter, for their continued exceptional support in hosting today’s luncheon.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$131; eight prizes were awarded: five \$5, two \$10, and one \$20 for a total of \$65 awarded.

Closing: Ron Perkins congratulated all award winners along with thanks to Chuck and Butch for an excellent program and logistical support. He also thanked Marie Fredricks for coordinating the food and table set up. Our next board meeting is November 4th and all are invited to attend. Auxiliary members and spouses were asked to remain for a short meeting to plan a community activity.

Benediction provided by Ron Perkins

Adjournment: 1:28 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Secretary