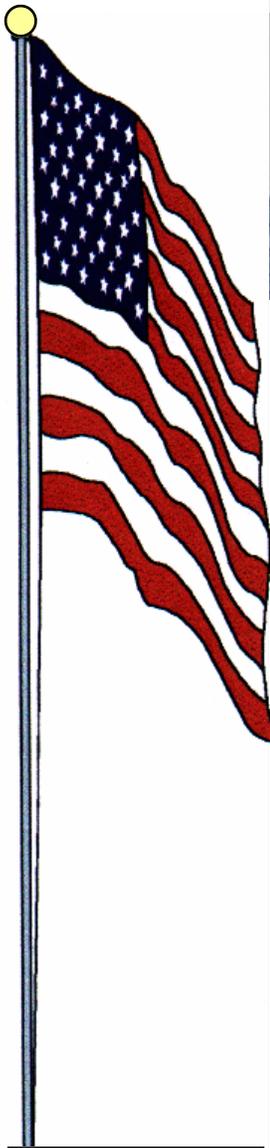




THE ARIZONA CHAPTER
 P.O. Box 7644
 Cave Creek, AZ 85327
 Arizona's First Chapter

The Sentinel



**SUPPORT
OUR TROOPS**

**REMEMBER
OUR FALLEN
COMRADES**

**FLY
YOUR FLAG**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with a great sense of responsibility that I sit down to write this message. Thanks again for your trust in me for the position of Chapter President.

I have reviewed in my mind what I consider the successes we Veterans have recently obtained. The leaders are, of course, TRICARE for Life (TFL) and the Senior Pharmacy Program (TSRx). Although both are for the 65 and over retirees, I'm sorry to say that that it will eventually affect us all. TFL has already caused a recalculation of TRICARE benefits that will impact the way providers view TRICARE. I just tested the system (TFL) as I recently had some surgery. During check-in, I received nothing but good remarks on TFL from the medical staff. Previously many would grimace when you mentioned TRICARE as the second payee as they suspected low payments for their efforts. From my understanding, TRICARE now uses a table/formula that gives a higher pay out schedule. Therefore, providers are starting to view TRICARE more favorably.

Many people have mentioned that pressing issues for the future are 1) Strength of the Country, 2) Concurrent Receipt (receiving both retirement pay and disability pay) and 3) Getting the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) increased from 35% to 55% for surviving spouses over 62. However, I consider them all as part of the Strength of Country issue. From what I've found out, Concurrent Receipt involves both the issues of the veteran getting military retired pay and veteran disability compensation, and a surviving spouse's concurrent receipt of SBP annuities and Defense Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for spouses of disabled veterans.

Experienced military people separating rather than making the military a career are adversely affecting strength of the country. When I first had the chance of separating in '65, being an engineer, I devised a formula with a total of 100 points to stay in or separate and the points came up 60 - 40 to separate. However, I transferred 11 points over to stay in for the patriotic factor that wasn't in my equation. If I had known about these two factors (Concurrent Receipt and the reduction of SBP) then, it would have been 100 - 0 to separate and I don't feel that at that time I would have transferred 51 points. Both Concurrent Receipt and SBP enter the equation to subtract from the attractiveness of making the military a career as both are long term benefits that override short term benefits - such as bonuses to stay in.

I will now get off my soapbox. Yes, we have made successes, but I feel that we may lose some of the benefits we have regained if we don't continue to speak out. I invite all members who haven't renewed to renew their membership and join us in these and other efforts.

I am looking forward to the March meeting where we gather at Falcon Field. You might even see a plane that you flew in or flew.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

February 12
Lincoln's Birthday

February 14
Valentine's Day



February 18
President's Day

February 21
Dinner Meeting
Best Western Hotel

February 22
Washington's
Birthday

March 1
Newsletter
Inputs Due

March 7
**Board of Directors
Meeting**

In This Issue

Page 1
President's Msg

Page 2
Membership
Scholarship
Editor's Note
Service Awards
Chaplain's Corner
Sentinel Ads

Page 3
Legislative Federal
Legislative State
Calling USCG
TFL
TSRx
Forms

Page 4
Dinner Meeting

God Bless each of you and God Bless America!

Ronald R. Green
LtCol (Ret) USAF
President, Arizona Chapter of TROA

Membership

As of the Change of Watch (19 Jan 02) we had 167 Members of which 39 were Auxiliary Members. That's the good news. The bad news is that 54 of our members had not renewed for the year 2002. Undoubtedly, some of those members have simply forgotten or overlooked the fact that dues are now payable. We won't take any drastic action, like drumming you out of the corps, for 30 days anyway. The Chapter Bylaws stipulate that a member is delinquent if dues are not paid by 60 days after due (1 March) and the individual will be dropped from the rolls after 90 days (1 April). We don't want to drop anyone, but we would like for everyone to square their account. How do you know if your dues are not paid? Check the mailing label and if it says **01** after your name -- you-are-delinquent!!! We have been known to make the occasional mistake, and if you feel we have made a mistake in your status - call. The first place to call is the Treasurer - Bill Johnson. If he says he got your check we will correct the mistake.

Raymond Deane, Membership

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship program is on track for another successful year. Application forms were mailed to each of the fifteen high schools we claim responsibility for in December. On the 1st of January we mailed letters to each of the high schools with the criteria for the award of the JROTC Recognition Ribbon and Medal. Now that we are in the last half of the school year we can expect some activity toward selecting recipients of both the scholarship money and the Recognition Medals. Plan on being tapped to serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee or the Awards Presentation list. If you have strong desires to serve in either capacity, just let me know.

Raymond Deane, Scholarship

Editor's Note

As I take over the editorial duties for the Sentinel I know I have some big shoes to fill when I look back upon the editorial efforts of my predecessors. Please rest assured that I will endeavor to put out a quality product that will uphold the traditions of our chapter. Any chapter members having an article for inclusion in the newsletter are asked to get it to the editor no later than the 1st of each month-sooner is better. Articles may be e-mailed to TerryTassin@cox.net or sent via USPS to 4333 W. Echo Lane, Glendale, AZ 85302.

Terry Tassin, Editor

Chapter Meritorious Service Awards

At the luncheon meeting on 15 November, nine members of the Arizona Chapter were awarded the Arizona Chapter Meritorious Service Medal for sustained superior service to the Chapter and it's members. We did not have a photo of the ceremony in time for the January newsletter, but we have a picture now. Not shown in the picture is Irene Doto who received her medal at the January meeting.



Recipients left to right:

Bill Johnson, James Seidl, Bill Adams Robert Rutherford, Bill Toy, Frank Birtciel, Carol Adams, Charles Schluter

Chaplain's Corner

"Behold now, praise the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord; Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord, even in the courts of the house of our God. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and praise the Lord. The Lord that made heaven and earth give thee blessing out of Zion. We praise God and listen for his word. In the name of the Lord, Amen".

Robert Rutherford, Chaplain

Sentinel Advertising

Operating on the principle that nothing is as good as it could be with the proper amount of fine tuning (tinkering), we are looking for ways to improve and expand our news letter, the "Sentinel." One way of attaining that end would be to accept advertising, initially at least, from our members who provide a service. To guide us through that minefield, we are happy to announce that Past President Chuck Schluter has volunteered to head up a committee of three to do research into the possibilities and pitfalls of such a project. Chuck will gladly accept any volunteers who wish to step forward. Lacking sufficient volunteers, Chuck has indicated he will revert to the time honored method of recruiting known as the 3AM call. Don't delay. Call Chuck now (480-563-8480).

The Board of Directors

Legislative - Federal

Our major efforts this last month have been to support Concurrent Receipt, which might still have some hope. The current status is that the Defense Authorization Bill signed in December includes the House provision which authorizes Concurrent Receipt if the President offers funding and legislation in his FY 2003 budget proposal. In support of this position, Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL), the original sponsor of concurrent receipt legislation is preparing letters to the President and House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) asking for their support to make concurrent receipt a reality in 2002. The letter to the President urges him to include the necessary funds in the budget he is due to send Congress in February. The letter to Nussle urges the Chairman to include budget "headroom" for concurrent receipt in the FY2003 Budget Resolution, scheduled for consideration by the Budget Committee in March. Bilirakis is asking the 374 cosponsors of H.R. 303 to cosign the letters with him. We have asked all of our members with email to send messages to Representatives Hayworth, Kolbe and Pastor who are the Arizona cosponsors to have them cosign the letter.

days. There is one problem; they don't have a Coast Guard flag. I have committed to provide a flag, and would like your help to pay for it. It will cost just over \$40.00, so if each Coast Guard member would come up with \$10.00, it would be easy for all of us. If you would like to participate, please send me a check at 14435 North 66th Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. I will make up any shortage, and will donate any surplus to the Scholarship fund.

Daniel M. Conway

TRICARE for Life (TFL)

We have become aware of a problem in TFL payments, which apply to claims for those providers such as the Mayo Clinic who bill for 115% of approved Medicare charges. There is no question that TFL will reimburse to the 115% level. However, there is currently a computer programming glitch that stops such payments. We have been informed by both TFL and TROA National that this problem is being addressed. We don't have a time schedule, but are assured that the problem will be solved soon.

Legislative - State

With representatives from the Legion, NAUS, Korean War Veterans, and other Veteran Organizations, I represented TROA at a hearing of the Arizona House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee considering reauthorization of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the Advisory Committee for 10 years. The vote was unanimous with compliments to Pat Chorpensing for his management of the Department. We are fortunate to have him working for the Veterans in Arizona.

Daniel M. Conway, Legislative Chairman

TRICARE Senior Pharmacy (TSRx)

One of our members has found out the 90-day supply available for a single co-payment from the Mail Order Pharmacy is not the same as three 30-day supplies. If the prescription is written for a 30-day supply with 11 refills, you are required to refill on a monthly basis, and you will be charged the appropriate co-pay on a monthly basis. The solution is to make sure that your prescriptions, which you intend to have filled from the Mail Order Pharmacy, be written for a 90-day supply.

Also make sure that your prescriptions, which you intend to have filled at your local pharmacy, are written for only a 30-day supply. If written for a month supply, which may be 31 days, you will be charged two co pays.

Daniel M. Conway

Calling All Coast Guard

Present procedures call for flying the individual service flags at the State Capitol on the individual service birth-

CHAPTER PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds or renew your chapter membership, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.

Membership Renewal: \$ 20 Full Member ____ \$10 Auxiliary Member ____ 50th Anniversary Fund: \$ ____

General Fund : \$ ____ Scholarship Fund : \$ ____

It is OK to identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ____ NO ____

Name Full Member: _____ Auxiliary Member: _____

MEAL/MEETING RESERVATION

Please reserve _____ spaces for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ . \$17.00 per person for 21 February 2002

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter TROA NLT: 15 February 2002

Send to Bill Johnson, 13410 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-689-5379 (Office)

Phone 602-942-4549 (Home)

February Dinner Meeting

WHEN: 21 February at 6:00 PM

WHERE: Best Western Executive Park Hotel
1100 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

COST: \$ 17.00 Per Person

MENU: Fresh Green Salad
Chicken Florentine
Rice Pilaf
Fresh Vegetable Medley
Warm Rolls and Butter
Apple Pie
Coffee, Ice Tea

PROGRAM: Brigadier General Richard Maxon
Assistant Adjutant General Army
Topic: "National Guard Update"

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal/Meeting Reservation Form in this newsletter.

Jim Seidl, Programs

Military Truisms

*Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate - the bombs always hit the ground.

The Arizona Chapter TROA - 2002 Officers and Committee Chairmen

President, LtCol Ron Green, USAF	480-595-8693
1st Vice President, LtCol Raymond Deane USAF	623-939-8517
2nd Vice President, LT Jim Seidl, USCG	602-841-6026
3rd Vice President, LtCol Chet Baumer, USAF	623-582-8595
Secretary, LCDR Terry Tassin, USN	623-931-1546
Treasurer, Maj Bill Johnson, USAF	602-942-4549
Pass President, Col Charles Schluter, USA	480-563-8480

Appointed Directors at Large / Committee Chairmen

Membership, LtCol Raymond Deane, USAF	623-939-8517
Legislative, CAPT Dan Conway, USCGR	480-368-1427
Programs, LT Jim Seidl, USCG	602-841-6026
Sentinel Editor, LCDR Terry Tassin, USN	623-931-1546
Web Master, Maj Ron Drew, USAF	602-493-8806
TOPS Liaison, LtCol Bernie Conway, USAF	480-994-0440
Chaplin/Pers Affairs, LTC Bob Rutherford, USA	602-944-4224
Historian/Photographer	Vacant
Morale, LtCol Bernie Conway, USAF	480-994-0440
50th Anniversary, LtCol Chet Baumer, USAF	623-582-8595
Scholarships, LtCol Raymond Deane, USAF	623-939-8517
Advertising, Col Charles Schluter, USA	480-563-8480
Electronic Communications, LtCol R. Deane	623-939-8517

*Any ship can be a minesweeper...once.

*If the enemy is in range, so are you.

*It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.

*No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.

The Retired Officers Association
Arizona Chapter
P.O. Box 7644
Cave Creek, AZ 85327



**Show Your Colors
By Proudly Displaying
An Arizona Veterans
Plate On Your
Vehicle.**