



The Sentinel



Arizona's First Chapter

THE ARIZONA CHAPTER, P.O. Box 7644, Cave Creek, AZ 85327

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CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

APRIL 2003

President's Message

As I pen this message to you, the "Conflict" in Iraq has begun. My thoughts are with all those members of our military family who are fighting for the freedom of the Iraqi people. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Jim Seidl and I have met with the new Head Caterer of the Executive Park Hotel. She assured us that the quality of food and service would return to past high levels. Although the dinner price increased \$2 effective with the April meeting, the new \$19 dinner price is still well below many other locations. If necessary, 3 April dinner guests will be able to pay their additional \$2 at the door.



We encourage all of you to attend our luncheon and dinner meetings. It is much easier to get quality speakers when there are at least 50 members in attendance. Fortunately, we have about 50 reservations for our April dinner meeting. Since the room can accommodate 90, there is plenty of space if you haven't yet made your reservations. General Fogleman will be our speaker. Perhaps, he can give us new insight into the war.

At the last luncheon, the speaker and demonstration of a Hydrogen fueled car was very impressive. The vehicle's modification cost was very reasonable. Hydrogen as a fuel burns clean and would provide a valuable tool in our fight against air pollution and dependence on oil. Now all we have to do is demand that Hydrogen become available as a fuel.

Dan Conway and Chuck Schluter were both at the "Storming of the Hill" in March. It is hoped that they will return with stories and information to share with us.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Chapter has two new Chairmen. Frank Birtciel has volunteered to be the Chapter Historian as Bill Adams is moving. Also, Paul Fein has volunteered to become the new Membership

Chairman. These assignments will become effective as of 1 April.

God Bless America And God Bless each of you.

Ronald R. Green

LtCol USAF (Ret), President, Arizona Chapter, MOAA

2003 AZ Chapter Goals

At the March Chapter Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the following Chapter goals for 2003.

- * Support National MOAA goals/issues. Some of which are:
 - Comparable wages for Active Military.
 - Increase Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) from 35% to 55%.
 - Improve Healthcare, including increase in Medicare Payments.
 - Separate DIC payments from SBP.
- * Maintain/increase participation in the Unified Arizona Veteran's (UAV) affairs.
- * Maintain participation in the Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame (HOF).
- * Fully develop the Chapter Web site and expand into a separate system with our own domain name. www.azchaptermoaa.com
- * Continue active involvement in the JROTC Awards and Monetary Scholarship programs
- * Increase membership in the Chapter by gaining 25 Arizona National Guard and Reserve Officers to become members of the AZ Chapter.
- * Increase Chapter involvement in Personal Affairs and provide help for the family after a member's death.

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 200 members including, 50 auxiliary members and the seven new members for 2003. Worthy of note is that 100% of the Auxiliary Members renewed. This gives a renewal rate of 91% or if stated another way - it leaves 18 members that did not renew and will be dropped from the rolls. When we subtract two members that moved out of state but who are maintaining their AZ Chapter membership, we have 198 active members in the Chapter.

Ron Green

Arizona Chapter Calendar

April 3

Dinner Meeting

April 6

Operation

Linebacker 1972

April 8

Siege of An Loc 1972

April 11

Persian Gulf War

Cease Fire 1991

April 20

Easter Sunday

May 1

BOD Meeting

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Officers

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG

AZ CHAPTER, MOAA SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

INTERESTED IN A SUPER DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP?

WHEN: Saturday, May 3, 2003. **First Tee Time:** 1030 (Come early if you want to hit some balls)

WHERE: Falcon Dunes Golf Course, located just north of Luke AFB at 15100 W. Northern Ave.

FORMAT: Individual score. **Handicaps** will be determined by the Calloway system.

COST: \$40, which includes green fees, carts, range balls, gratuities, box lunch at the ‘turn-around’, and a few bucks left over for prizes. Carts are required. Remember, the proceeds from Mulligan sales (2 for \$5 unlimited number allowed-unused Mulligans are not refundable) go directly into the Chapter’s Scholarship Fund. Buy lots of Mulligans at the check-in table – you may need them – and the Scholarship Fund surely can use the money!

WHO: Members and guests of the AZ Chapter MOAA.

DRESS CODE: Collared shirts only – no tank tops or tee shirts. Soft Spikes only – no metal spikes – you may wear sneakers.

WHAT: Reservations and \$40.00 fee must be received by April 25. Please mail fees to: Bernie Conway, 5737 N. 79th Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. Changes, both additions and deletions, can be handled by phone up to April 25. Phone 480-994-0440 or email Bernie at: BCJC5737@cox.net

This is a very friendly, fun tournament. You do not have to be a good golfer to play and have fun with this group. We do have a couple of “good” golfers, but they just have to put up with the rest of us.

SPECIAL RULES: Men Play from EAGLE tees – Women Play from STARFIGHTER tees. Mulligan not allowed on Closest-to-Pin and Longest Drive holes. Additional rules and prize information will be available at the check-in table.

Cut and Mail Entry Form With Entry Fee



**AZ CHAPTER SPRING GOLF TMX - COUNT ME IN!
HERE IS MY REGISTRATION SLIP AND ENTRY FEE.**

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

I would like to be partnered with: _____

* Mail entry slip and fees to: Bernie Conway, 5737 N. 79th Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

* Make checks payable to: **Bernie Conway** - - - - \$40 per person

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firewood • Hauling • Tree Removal • Clean-Up 		<p>1/2 Cord: \$150.00 Full Cord: \$250.00 Delivered & Stacked</p>
<p>Benson H. Huddleston General Manager/Owner</p>		<p>7246 S. 41st Street Phoenix, Az 85042</p>

Legislation

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Equity Sought

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fl., has introduced HR-548, which would phase out the current reduction in the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity for survivors that takes place at age 62. SBP annuities start at 55 percent of the amount of retired pay designated by the retiree and drop to 35 percent at age 62. **This reduction, along with a relatively higher percentage of cost shares paid by military retirees, makes the military SBP inequitable in comparison with plans available to federal civilian retirees.** The bill would phase-in increases over a five-year period, moving up to 40 percent on Oct. 1, 2004; to 45 percent in 2005; to 50 percent in 2006; and to 55 percent on Oct. 1, 2007. The bill has 131 cosponsors. Additionally, Senator Olympia Snowe R-ME introduced S. 451, the Survivor Benefit Plan Benefits Improvement Act of 2003 recently. Sen. John McCain R-AZ has joined Sen. Snowe as a cosponsor. This is a companion bill to Rep. Jeff Miller's H.R. 548. It would increase the age 62 SBP annuity over a period of five years. {emphasis by editor} [Source: Armed Forces News. & AFRETIRE]

New MOAA Name Tags

Many members are ordering new nametags sporting the new MOAA logo. If you would like a new Name Tag, order forms are available at each Chapter meeting. It is requested that you pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting they can be mailed to you.

Addresses

Just a reminder to please keep the membership chairman and the newsletter editor updated on your current mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

E-mail Preference Service

If you want to reduce the number of unsolicited commercial emails you receive check out Direct Marketing Associations (DMA) E-mail Preference Service (e-MPS) at www.dmaconsumers.org. Here you can complete an e-MPS registration form online to be deleted from national commercial e-mail lists. Upon receipt, the DMA will distribute your request to companies subscribing to e MPS. Companies subscribe to reduce their advertising cost in transmitting to potential customers who are not going to respond. All DMA members who wish to send unsolicited commercial e-mail must purge their e-

mail lists of the individuals who have registered their e-mail address with e-MPS. The service is also available to non-members so that all marketers may take advantage of this service to eliminate the names of those who do not want unsolicited commercial e-mail. E mail of a business-to-business nature received at your place of employment is not affected through registration with e-MPS. The DMA does not provide marketers with consumer e-mail lists. [Source: Joe Kleinsmith, VFW Post 1716 – Freedom CA]

Long-Term Care Open Season

Military members, federal employees, and their spouses, have a six-month window starting 1 July to take advantage of a streamlined application process for the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program. Federal personnel officials estimate that 20 million people may be eligible to enroll. The John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies offer the insurance through a contract with the Office of Personnel Management. Long-term care insurance helps people with chronic health conditions to pay for care givers and services that help them do such things as get out of bed, wash, dress, eat, go to the toilet, and other activities that the ill and frail find difficult. Long-term care may be provided at home, in a nursing home or in an assisted-living facility. Long term care is not medical care and usually isn't covered by medical insurance plans. Likewise, the long-term insurance program does not cover medical care expenses or medicines.

During the program's first "open season," from July 1 through Dec. 31, eligible military members, federal civilians, and their spouses need to answer a few health questions as part of the streamlined underwriting process. Underwriting is key: It determines an applicant's level of risk, eligibility to participate, premiums and benefits. On the other hand, because premiums for long-term care insurance are based upon age and state of health, all federal civilian and military retirees must undergo full underwriting, which involves answering more health-related questions and providing more information. The Long-Term Care Partners [<http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc>] Web site www.ltcfeds.com has open season information kits and application instructions. There may be additional FLTCI Open Season enrollment windows, but none are scheduled or promised at this time. Procedures and rules could change for future open seasons. To consult with a certified long-term care insurance specialist by phone call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) or TDD 1-800-843-3557. This service is available 8 A.M. - Midnight EST 7 Days a Week. [Source: American Forces Press Service 1 JUL 02]

Real, True, Un-Exaggerated Rules of Golf

1. If you really want to get better at golf, go back and take it up at a much earlier age.
2. The game of golf is 90% mental and 10% mental.
3. Since bad shots come in groups of three, a fourth bad shot is actually the beginning of the next group of three.

Newsletter Advertising

If you or a business/organization known to you wishes to place an ad in *The Sentinel* please contact the Editor for details. Advertisements will be priced according to size in multiples that approximate standard business card dimensions. Proceeds from advertisements help defray cost of preparing the newsletter. Advertising costs are:

Size	Annual	Quarterly	Impact Ad
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

Scholarship Fund

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Our thanks are offered to contributors on behalf of all future beneficiaries of the Scholarship Fund.

BINNACLE LIST

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to
Ray Hitzel
 who recently entered
 Pueblo Norte Nursing Home.

April Dinner Meeting Reminder

WHEN: 3 April 2003
 6:30PM Social Period
 7:00PM Dinner

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

COST: \$19.00 Per Person

MENU: Mixed Green Salad
 Yankee Pot Roast
 Chunks of Carrots/Potatoes/Celery
 Roasted in Mushroom Sauce
 Warm Rolls with Butter
 Apple Pie
 Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: General Ronald R. Fogleman USAF (Ret), formerly the 15th Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Topic: "Military Transformation in Transition".

You should have already made your reservations and sent your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal/Meeting Reservation Form. **Jim Seidl Programs**

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Veteran's Plates

Q: Can Arizona Veteran's Plates be ordered through the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) Internet web site? and if yes how? I do not see a way to do so on the web site.

A: No, MVD does not provide Veterans plates on-line because of the eligibility requirements (must show your DD214). You will find this information on the MVD web site @ <http://www.dot.state.az.us/mvd/vehicle/mvdplate.htm> -- click on Veterans. Or, if you provide your mailing address, the MVD will mail you a special plate application (eligibility requirements will be found on the reverse side of the application).]

CHAPTER FINANCIAL 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: _____

