



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter, 14435 N. 66th Place, Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

DECEMBER 2006

CHARTERED IN 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: John Gerometta

Annual Membership Renewal Kick-Off !!!!



President's Message

As we look back, the year has gone by very quickly and was a very successful year for the Chapter. The 50th celebration was the biggest thing, but we shouldn't forget the JROTC Medals, the Scholarships, the Golf Outings, the Monthly Luncheon meetings, Memorial Day, the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, and the fellowship which we all enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who helped make it all happen.

There is still time to participate in the ARNG Family Assistance Program which I discussed last month. Several members have been very generous, and I hope that more of you will decide to participate. It is planned that all checks will be presented on December 10, so I should have your donation by December 5th. Write your checks to ARNG Family Assistance Program. All donations, large as well as small, add up to help a Reserve or Guard family make it through the Holidays. I'm looking forward to our election of Officers for next year and to what in the past has been a wonderful Christmas program.

Chapter Meritorious Service Awards—2006



At the November 2006 Chapter luncheon meeting, eleven members of the Arizona Chapter MOAA were awarded the Arizona Chapter Meritorious Service Award for sustained superior service to the Chapter and its members. Recipients left to right:

Standing - are LtCol Frank Birtciel USAF (Ret), CDR John Gerometta USCG (Ret), LT James C. Seidl USCG (Ret), Col Ron Worthington USAFR (Ret), Col Pat Dale USAFR (Ret), LtCol Chester Baumer, USAF (Ret).

Seated: Mrs. Jo Ann Thompson, Mrs. Velma Birtciel, Mrs. Betty Baumer, and CAPT Davalee (Dee) Norton USCG (Ret). Not shown was Col Charles H. Schluter USA (Ret).



Trick or Treat! Says Bill Johnson as he counts the money.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Dec 7

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Dec 16

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Jan 4, 2007

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Jan 20

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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

Chaplain's Corner

"Lord forgive us our trespasses and lead us in the way of righteousness that we may follow in your footsteps. Amen."

—Robert Rutherford, Chaplain



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Your Board

**December Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, 16 December
McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, 16 December at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social hour at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 7 of this newsletter. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is **12 December**. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

Increase in Meeting Luncheon Fee.

Due to an increase in cost of serving our meals at McCormick Ranch, the Board of Directors approved an increase in luncheon costs to \$18 per person. This change is effective with the November 2006 meeting. Please take note of this change when you send your reservations and checks to the Treasurer.

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 197 members including, 47 auxiliary members and 29 new members for 2006.

Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks

This is the time of year when our state and federal legislatures have completed legislative actions for most, if not all, activities that impact on their respective budgets for the year (FY2007). This is also an election year. The good news is that the legislatures did indeed complete most of their military, veteran and survivor legislative duties. The bad news is that the lame duck sessions remaining will likely accomplish little else this year.

That having been said, this is also the time when the administration's major departments such as DOD and VA are deep into preparing their budget submissions for the coming year (FY2008). Organizations such as MOAA are at the same time in the process of prioritizing the many issues that are still on the table following the FY2007 action and in getting ready to fend off anticipated budget reduction proposals that surely will be coming from the administration for FY2008.

On the federal side, a detailed listing of MOAA issues from active duty through Guard/Reserve to veterans and survivors can be found in the Legislative section of the MOAA web-site. Unfortunately, there are so many issues that if we try to fight for all of them equally, we probably won't get any of them resolved favorably. Earlier this fall MOAA sent out 7000 surveys to a random selection of MOAA members in an attempt to prioritize the issues that members feel are most important. There was also an opportunity for anyone to take the survey on the MOAA web-site, and many did just that. Now the MOAA staff and ultimately the MOAA Board of Directors are responsible for coming up with the final priorities. Finally, MOAA will have to react in

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter the members below have made generous donations to the:

- General Fund:
No donations this month
- Scholarship Fund:
Dan Germond \$25
Mike and Clair Gannon \$14
Doug Gray \$17
MOAA Travel Service \$50
Jim & Toni Seidl \$16

real time to the actual budget submittals of the administration when they become clear early next calendar year.

Although we won the battle this year to head off DOD proposed significant increases in TRICARE and pharmacy fees and co-pays, nobody believes the war is over. This will surely be a big issue for next year. Likewise we can anticipate that MOAA will continue the fight to eliminate the DIC offset to SBP. Beyond that, we will just have to wait and see how it all unfolds. In the mean time, you can access the entire list of issues in the Legislative section of the MOAA web-site if you care to review them.

On the state side, you will recall that the Veteran's Task Force created by the Governor two years ago came up with several initiatives that were passed into law this year. There were eight other areas that were tabled for further study. Now that the election is over, the Governor is expected to create additional panels to investigate these areas and propose legislation where needed. One of the eight major areas deals with how to make Arizona more attractive to military members and veterans.

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:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Annual (10 issues)</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>	<u>Impact Ad</u>
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

Legislative Update..continued from page 2

Within that category one would find tax incentives. Two years ago State Senator Jack Harper proposed legislation that would exempt active duty pay from Arizona state income taxes. That initiative became law this year. One of our own MOAA members, Col Gene Fenstermacher USAF(Ret), from the Coronado Chapter in Sierra Vista was active in that battle and received significant support from MOAA, AFA and other military supporters across the state. As announced at the fall meeting of the Arizona Council of MOAA Chapters, Gene is now intent on expanding this state income tax exemption to include military retired pay and SBP. To this end, Gene has contacted Senator Harper, and the Senator has agreed to go forward with such legislation. This one is surely one to watch and support as the state level budget process for next year begins to take shape.

2007 Membership Renewal
by Terry Tassin

The good news is that as of our luncheon on November 18 the Chapter had 197 members! The bad news is to date only a few present members have renewed their memberships for 2007 early.

National's Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, always has a column in the "Military Officer" magazine. In his article the Director normally pushes for Chapter membership. Based on what he says I wonder if any of the

Nominating Committee Report

Each year at this time our Chapter holds elections for new officers to serve the Chapter for the coming year. We normally hold elections at our November General Membership Meeting (luncheon) and install the new slate of officers at our January General Membership Meeting. This year our efforts to put on a grand Chapter 50th Anniversary Celebration in October caused us to delay our annual election of officers to the December General Membership Meeting.

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee this year I am pleased to present for your consideration the following slate of nominees for Chapter officers for 2007:

★ President:	LCDR Terry Tassin, USN
★ 1 st Vice President,	Col Ron Worthington, USAF
★ 2 nd Vice President:	Col Ronald Perkins, USAF
★ Secretary:	CDR John Gerometta, USCG
★ Treasurer:	Maj Bill Johnson, USAF
★ Director:	LtCol Chet Baumer, USAF
★ Director:	LtCol Ron Green, USAF
★ Director:	COL Chuck Schluter, USA
★ Director:	LT Jim Seidel, USCG
★ Director:	Mrs. Jo Ann Thompson, Auxiliary
★ Immed Past President	CAPT Dan Conway,

Gary Fredricks COL USAF (RET)
Chair Nominating Committee

Once again, the elections will be held at the December General Membership Meeting (luncheon). The above slate will be presented by the Nominating Committee, and further nominations will be accepted from the floor.

legislation passed over recent years in support of active, reserve, guard, and retired veterans would have happened without the thousands of letters, telephone calls and emails generated by MOAA chapter members and their respective legislative chairmen. We have made progress in restoring lost benefits over the last few years. Let us continue

to be active to make sure we don't lose any benefits that have been restored. Get behind the Arizona Chapter and National MOAA and send your membership renewal application - that is on page 5 in this *Sentinel* - to the Chapter Secretary. Otherwise, if your house and schedule is like mine it may get lost in the holiday rush!



"After this purchase, I couldn't afford a car!"

50th Anniversary Celebration

My congratulations go to the folks who were kind enough to donate funds to the 50th Anniversary for the last several years. Our success was basically as a result of your generosity. Since the board did not provide funds, the wonderful celebration would not have been so successful without you all. We are proud of you!

Chet Baumer, Chairman

New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter:

Robert R Anderson

Col USAF (RET)
5865 E Justine Rd
Scottsdale AZ 85254
602-595-4065
bobandersonarizona@yahoo.com

Lavina Davis

Auxiliary
15010 N 50th St
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Daniel L Germond

LCDR USCGR (RET)
1301 E Laurel Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85028
(best) 623-931-5344 or
623-992-1655

Michael T Grady

CDR USN (RET)
3516 E Sandra Terrace
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602-496-5079
michaeltgrady@coz.com

James W Grassman

Col USAF (RET)
11023 De La O Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255-8070
480-585-4324
jsmeswgrassman@hotmail.com

Philip W Harris, Jr

COL USA (RET)
7743 E Spanish Oaks Dr
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
480-491-4136

Kai-Henning Pederson

Col USAF (RET)
4828 E Clearwater Parkway
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
480-998-8290
kaihenning13@cox.net

David R Woker

CAPT USN (RET)
3232 E Stanford Dr
Paradise, AZ 85253
602-617-4631
dwoker@amgen.com

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members.

Auxiliary Corner

Extracted from MOAA's
The Affiliate November 2006

I've been an auxiliary member of MOAA for many years, but it wasn't until after I joined the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee that I discovered the extensive member services MOAA provides, either directly or by partnering with others. One of my tasks as an advisor is attending meetings of the Member Services Committee, and I can tell you this group works hard to ensure MOAA members have excellent, dependable, and fully vetted services. There are too many to discuss in full here, but I will mention those that auxiliary members might find most appealing and helpful.

Legal and financial help are offered at a discount. If you need to update your will or health care directives, you can contact the lawyers on MOAA's approved list, who offer up to 25-percent off these and other legal services. MOAA partner **Garrett Planning Network** offers members a 20-percent discount on financial planning services.

Concerned about preserving assets in case you require extensive health care? After carefully examining the many policies on the market, MOAA

Auxiliary Corner Continued

offers **long term care policies** through its insurance provider, **Marsh Affinity Group Services**.

There's also the **Bank of America credit cards and certificates of deposit**. You'll receive air mileage and other reward points with the MOAA Bank of America credit card.

And through MOAA's partner travel agency, **MOAA Vacations**, you can arrange tours, cruises, and customized travel. For more information, call MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit online, www.moaa.org/services.

Another year of work, down the drain! Despite being included in the Senate version of the FY 2007 Defense Bill, a provision that would have ended the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) offset for military survivor was dropped by conferees from the final version of the bill. The reason we hear is cost, more than \$8 billion over 10 years. The war on terrorism is costing the nation a great deal of money - one of the costs of war is to take care of the widows, widowers, and orphans who are left behind. I know MOAA will continue to back us auxiliaries on ending the SBP-DIC offset for the 61,000 survivors now affected by the loss of \$1,000 or more a month in benefits they should receive. I hope that it will still be a priority issue as it has been for the last two years. All widows/widowers really do need to write and call their legislators and tell them how unhappy they are with the lack of action on this important issue. Too many of those who are affected by the offset seem to be complacent enough to sit back and let someone else take care of things. Well, it isn't working!

MOAA chapter liaisons can help spread the word about our loss this year and get their chapter's members busy with calls and letters to their congressional leaders when the new Congress convenes in January.

Ann Patton, MOAA Auxiliary Advisory Committee

AZ Chapter MOAA Membership Renewal Notice

Thank you for your AZ Chapter support during 2006. Your support for our chapter has helped provide the base for our scholarship program for outstanding Phoenix area JROTC students, for our efforts to represent you on state and local legislative issues, for our actions - including our award winning **Sentinel** - to keep you involved and informed on these and broader issues affecting our military and retired community and for our schedule of activities promoting camaraderie and friendship.

For most members, this serves as your notice that AZ Chapter dues for 2007 are due on January 1, 2007, and are delinquent 60 days thereafter. Here's how you can tell if your dues are due. Look on the mailing label if you received your Sentinel by USPS. After your last name is a number – if it is 06, your dues are due. Higher numbers have paid their dues in advance. Members that only receive the Sentinel by e-mail will receive a notification from me soon. If you disagree, please let us know.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

Arizona Chapter 2007 Membership Renewal Form

*Member Full Name: _____

*Membership Renewal: \$20 Full member _____

*Membership Renewal: \$10 Auxiliary member _____

*I wish to receive the Chapter Newsletter (*The Sentinel*) by {select one}:
 _____ E-mail (in full color) or _____ U.S. Mail (hard copy b&w) or _____ Both

*E-Mail Address: _____

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to:
 AZ CHAPTER MOAA
 C/O John Gerometta
 8555 E Camelback Road
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251

ATTENTION AUXILIARY MEMBERS

A reminder to all auxiliary members that it is time to renew your annual dues of \$10. It is very important that you continue your membership in order to stay abreast of legislative issues that affect all of us. We as auxiliary members continue to enjoy benefits, such as Tricare for Life and the phasing out of the Survivors Benefit Plan age-62 annuity reduction.

We are grateful to all who made that possible.

Jo Anne Thompson, Auxiliary Chairperson

Arizona Chapter MOAA

Activities Calendar 2007

Revised: 11/6/2006

Date	Event
Jan 2007	Contact JROTC Programs on Scholarships and Medals
Jan 2007	Begin 2007 JROTC Scholarship & Awards process
Jan 01	Chapter dues payable (delinquent in 60 days)
Jan 04	Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting (American Legion Post #107) Note 1
Jan 20	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Install 2007 Officers) Note 2
Feb 01	Printed Newsletter Awards Submission Date (MOAA Recognition Program)
Feb 01	BOD Meeting (Post #107) Note 1
Feb 17	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
Mar 01	BOD Meeting (Post #107) Note 1
Mar 17	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
Mar 27	JROTC Scholarship Applications due
Apr	Begin JROTC Recognition Medal Award presentations.
Apr 05	BOD Meeting (<i>Scholarship Selections</i>) (Post #107) Note 1
Apr 21	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
May 03	BOD Meeting (Post #107) Note 1
May 19	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (<i>Present Scholarship Awards!!</i>) Note 2
May 28	Memorial Day Observed/Chapter Participation
May (TBA)	AZ Chapter Spring Golf Outing. Golf Course & Date TBA.
Jun 01	Chapter Levels of Excellence Awards Submission Due at MOAA National (NLT)
Jun 07	BOD Meeting (Post #107) Note 1
Jun 14	Flag Day
Jun 16	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
Jul/Aug Calendar is open for summer break. Newsletter, <i>The Sentinel</i> , on vacation.	
Sep 06	BOD Meeting (Establish Nomination & Awards Committees) (Post #107) Note 1
Sep 15	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
Sep (TBA)	AZ Chapter Fall Golf Outing. Golf Course & Date TBA
Oct 04	BOD Meeting (Nominating & Awards Committee Reports) (Post #107) Note 1
Oct 20	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
Oct 24	Staff Nominating Committee Notice Due for November Sentinel
Nov 01	BOD Meeting (Post #107) Note 1
Nov 11	Armistice Day/Veterans Day Observed
Nov 17	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (<i>Annual Business Meeting</i>) (<i>Chapter Elections & MSA Presentations</i>). Note 2
Dec	Membership Renewal Kick-Off (Notice in Sentinel)
Dec 06	BOD Meeting (Post #107) Note 1
Dec 15	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Speaker) Note 2
Jan 03, 2008	BOD Meeting (American Legion Post #107) Note 1
Jan 19	Luncheon McCormick Ranch (Install 2007 Officers) Note 2

[Note 1](#) – Informal Lunch at 12:45 AM with meeting starting at 1:30 PM

[Note 2](#) - Luncheon Social Hour begins at 11:00AM with lunch at Noon.

[Note 3](#) - The deadline for submitting items to be published in *The Sentinel* is the 25th of each month for the following month.

[Note 4](#) - The Unified Arizona Veterans Committee meets on the 1st Saturday of each month except August and September.

Today's Story - Was Your Mom Mean?

Was your Mom mean? I know mine was. We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from what other kids had too.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour - or less.

We were ashamed to admit it but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would awake at night thinking of more things for us to do.

She always insisted on us telling the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds. Then, life really got tough! Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them.

While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16. Because of our mother, we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things other kids did.

Now that we have left home, we are all educated, honest adults. We are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was. I think that's what's wrong with the world today. *It just doesn't have enough mean moms anymore!*

December Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 16 December 2006
11:00 a.m. Social Period
12:00 Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$18.00 - Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chief's Choice

Program: Trevor Brown High School Choir. Election of Chapter Officers

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

-- Jim Seidl, Programs



TAPS



If you know of a member or spouse who enters the hospital or passes away, please notify one of the Chapter Officers

CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

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

General Fund: \$ _____,

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ (now a 501 (c)(3) charitable fund)

Name of Donor : _____ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ___ NO ___

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$18.00 per person) for **16 December 2006.**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** No Later Than: **12 December 2006**

Send to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-690-1012**

The Arizona Chapter solicits advertisements for the purpose of defraying the cost of publication of the newsletter. The Chapter has not made any investigation as to the products and services advertised herein and makes no representation or warranties as to the advertisements in the newsletter.

The Arizona Chapter - MOAA - 2006 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LCDR Terry Tassin USN 623-931-1546	CHAPLAIN LTC Bob Rutherford USA 602-944-4224	NEWSLETTER EDITOR CDR John Gerometta USCG 480-947-5371
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PAST PRESIDENT Col Gary Fredricks USAF 480-836-8419	LEGISLATIVE Col Gary Fredricks USAF 480-836-8419	50TH ANNIVERSARY LtCol Chet Baumer, USAF 623-582-8595
DIRECTORS Charles Schluter; James Seidl; Chester Baumer; Ronald Green; Jo Ann Thompson	MEMBERSHIP CAPT Dee Norton USCG 480-275-5089 Maj Rosanne Trujillo USA 480-947-8799	WEB MASTER Capt Tom Houser, USAF 602-697-3123

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
14435 N. 66th Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85254



Show Your Colors By Proudly Displaying The Arizona 'Veteran Plate' On Your Vehicle. Show How Veterans Help Veterans.