



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

FEBRUARY 2007

CHARTERED 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

Moving Forward! I wish to thank all of you for your confidence by electing me president for this coming year. I pledge to you my best efforts to ensure, with your help and support, that we can have another great year. Some items of interest:

The December *Military Officer* magazine cover wrap is still generating great results, as national MOAA has signed on nearly 2,000 new members, most of whom are totally new contacts that haven't been in national's database. Chapter members nationwide are giving the gift of MOAA membership to their sons, daughters, grandchildren, and active-duty colleagues and they are remarking on how pleased they are to have the opportunity to introduce MOAA to the special people in their lives. This is something we should all consider for our eligible relatives.

On a different subject: In late December National received the final check for funds bequeathed to the National MOAA Scholarship Fund from the estate of the widow of a Marine Corps officer, who split her estate

between five charitable beneficiaries, one of which was the MOAA Scholarship Fund. In all, the national Fund received some \$1.74 million from this generous military spouse. This is something we should all consider including in our Wills if there is enough to go around. What I mean is, if you can arrange it; include a donation to our AZ Chapter Scholarship Fund or General Fund. This will help ensure funds are there to help deserving high school JROTC students attend college.

Back at National; the National MOAA health-care team recently met with staffers from the offices of Senators Lautenberg and Hagel to discuss reintroduction of those Senators' bill limiting TRICARE fee increases. MOAA hopes to have the bills reintroduced in the House & Senate so national can kick off our fight quickly. Looking ahead, the **February Military Officer** magazine will have four tear-out letters on this topic that I am asking you to send to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. Last year a similar effort generated thousands of letters, which the leaders stacked in front of defense witnesses as an indicator of constituent concern. MOAA will follow that letter mailing effort with postcards in a cover wrap on the **March issue** of the *Military Officer* magazine, addressed to members of Congress. One postcard will be pre-printed with your spouse's return address. Please support these efforts by sending the letters and postcards to the appropriate individuals.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Feb 1

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Feb 17

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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HELP WANTED!

Editor for Arizona Chapter MOAA monthly (less July/Aug) newsletter - *The Sentinel*. Candidate should have access to a computer, and be willing to contribute a few hours each month to newsletter preparation, printing, and mailing. Need more information - contact Terry Tassin at 623-931-1546 or email: terrytassin@cox.net.

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

New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter:

Richard “Gregg” Maxon and wife Janine

BG ARNG (RET)
 8508 E. Hazelwood Street
 Scottsdale AZ 85251
 480-990-3625
 rmaxon3@cox.net

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members.

**Luncheon Meeting
 Saturday, 17 February
 McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **17 February** 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 **15 February**. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

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:

**Charles Retz \$25; Irene Doto \$50
 Ed Waldmann \$10; Bruno Bartyzel \$10**

Scholarship Fund:

**Renate Weidenfeld \$10; Domenica Varricchio \$50
 E. Waldmann \$15; Mike Gannon \$14; G. Fredricks \$18
 Irene Doto \$100, The Seidls \$21; R. Worthingtons \$20**

ARNG Assistance Fund

**Charles Retz \$25
 National MOAA Scholarship Fund
 The Newells \$50**

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 199 members including, 49 auxiliary members and 2 new members for 2007.

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

Coming Attractions!

By Chuck Schluter

On **February 17th** we will enjoy a “give” and “take” environment of sorts. One of our own members, Jeff Young, is an acclaimed public speaker who offers a wide repertoire of topics. We can be assured that Jeff will provide a light-hearted, patriotic, appropriate and informative presentation for us. The twist this time is that we will be helping Jeff because he will be bringing an “assistant” to video tape his performance. The tape will probably be utilized by Jeff to help his business grow. Come and enjoy the opportunity, promise to behave, and wear your Sunday Best. (Only kidding...but don’t miss this opportunity to support our own members either).

The **March 17th** Luncheon just happens to fall on Saint Patrick’s Day. So Wear Green! The “official” program is not quite settled yet but we’re working on it. But we will also have a unique guest who will present a unique Summer program that we have in mind for you. Ron Klaphake is a former shipmate of Terry Tassin and owner of the shiny new Arizona Broadway Dinner Theatre. I’ve been there and it’s great! We are planning a group event for July...stand by for more info soon.

The **April 21st** event remains unconfirmed, however we’ve invited a local TV station News Anchor – let’s see if he accepts, or if I have to change channels!

Don’t miss the **May 19th** Luncheon! If there is one thing that we do, and do well, it’s that we support local JROTC programs with both medals and scholarships. Quite frankly we expend a lot of effort on this program, and your attendance at this luncheon means a lot to your staff. Our military legacy demands that we look to the future military leaders, and that’s exactly what we are doing. Join us as we present our Scholarship awards and hear testimony from the recipients – these young men and women have been fantastic!

The **June 16th** program is also unconfirmed – but standby, we have several ideas!

SPECIAL EVENT: Instead of taking our traditional summer break in July and June we are planning (early stages mind you) a trip to the Arizona Broadway Theatre. Group rates apply, and the show “Grease” seems perfect for a Saturday Matinee outing. Tickets include the Luncheon meal, gratuity and admission. It’s a shiny new building, every seat is good, and quite frankly, we can’t go wrong. (PS – we went recently and saw “Kiss Me Kate”, the sets, costumes, music, acoustics, meal and service were simply perfect).

That’s it for now! Get the calendars out and get ready.

Scholarship
by Ron Worthington

The Arizona Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund awards scholarships each year to several graduating JROTC cadets selected from applicants from seventeen competing high schools. With these scholarships, we hope to further the education of students who have maintained a scholastic position in the upper half of his or her class

and who demonstrate qualities of leadership, good moral character and concern for his or her fellow men and women through service to others.

Last year the Scholarship Fund awarded \$1,000 scholarships to college or university bound cadets from Alhambra, Cortez, Moon Valley and Cactus High Schools. One of those cadets is now a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy and used his scholarship to defray start-up costs at the Academy that are

Chaplain's Corner

"Lord heal us with your love. Allow it to envelop us and radiate from us making us whole and in harmony with others. May the power of your concern give us strength to grow beyond our mistakes and misjudgments. Amen"

—Robert Rutherford, Chaplain

the individuals' responsibility to pay.

This year's letter requesting nominations went to the Senior Military Science Instructor at our seventeen high schools on January 2nd.

Continued on page 4

Chapter JROTC Award Presentations

by Terry Tassin

The purpose of the MOAA JROTC medal is to recognize an outstanding cadet who is in his or her junior year in the JROTC program and who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. The presentation of the MOAA JROTC medal is one way the Arizona Chapter fosters a positive military image among the youth of the community. By supporting JROTC units, chapter members are providing access to the educational and leadership skills for cadets to become successful members of the military and society in general. There is no obligation for these students to serve in the military. However, promoting good citizenship, responsibility and leadership in these young people as they venture into their future lives can only pay high dividends for all of us.

The seventeen high schools supported by the Arizona Chapter of MOAA have a population of approximately 30,000 students and cover Central, South, North, Northwest and Northeast areas of the Valley of the Sun. The presence on campus of JROTC members provides a visible and highly respected group noted for their dedication to leadership, community service and overall excellence as students.

Our supported JROTC units include every socioeconomic category and foster cultural diversity. But the thread binding it all together is "I am an American" to which they all subscribe. Every year at each school, the Arizona Chapter awards an MOAA medal, ribbon and certificate to a cadet who displays outstanding potential for military leadership. These awards are highly cherished by the recipients. The selection of those to receive the award is done by the student's JROTC instructor. The presentation of the MOAA Medal takes place in either April or May at the school's award ceremony. This article is the first call for Arizona Chapter members to volunteer to be a presenter at a school awards ceremony. It's fun and you will feel better for doing it!

Contact Terry Tassin at either 623-931-1546 or email: terrytassin@cox.net and volunteer to present medals at one of our supported schools. Below are our schools and their award night dates.

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Alhambra HS	3839 W. Camelback Rd	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM	Auditorium
Apollo HS	8045 N. 47th Avenue	Tuesday	08-May-07	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Cactus HS	6330 W. Greenway Rd	Friday	04-May-07	7:00 PM	Cafeteria
Camelback HS	4612 N. 28th Street	Tuesday	08-May-07	6:30 PM	Auditorium
Carl Hayden HS	3333 W. Roosevelt St	Wednesday	02-May-07	6:00 PM	Auditorium
Central HS	4525 N. Central Ave	Saturday	TBD	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Cortez HS	8828 N. 31st Ave	Tuesday	01-May-07	6:00PM	Auditorium
Deer Valley HS	18424 N. 51st Ave	Friday	04-May-07	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Glendale HS	6216 W. Glendale Ave	Tuesday	15-May-07	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Greenway HS	3930 W. Greenway Rd	Tuesday	15-May-07	7:00 PM	Cafeteria
Moon Valley HS	3625 W. Cactus Rd	Thursday	10-May-07	7:00 PM	Auditorium
North HS	1101 E. Thomas Rd	Wednesday	25-Apr-07	6:30 PM	Cafeteria
Sandra Day O'Connor	25250 N. 35th Ave	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Shadow Mountain HS	2902 E. Shea Blvd	Tuesday	08-May-07	6:00 PM	Auditorium
South Mountain HS	5607 S. 7th St	Tuesday	TBD	6:00 PM	POD 68
Sunnyslope HS	35 W. Dunlap Ave	Thursday	19-Apr-07	6:00 PM	Cafeteria
Thunderbird HS	1750 W. Thunderbird Rd	Wednesday	16-May-07	7:00 PM	Auditorium

Scholarship... continued from page 3

Applications will be accepted until March 25th and scholarships awarded by the Scholarship Committee after that. The amount of the scholarship and number of recipients will depend on the number of qualified candidates and the amount of money available in the Scholarship Fund. Since we do not want qualified candidates rejected because of a lack of funds, donations to the Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated.

Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks

On January 10, Dan Conway, Ron Worthington, Betty and Ron Green and I attended the annual Veteran's Day at the State Legislature held on the East Senate Lawn of the state capitol. We were joined by many other veterans from veterans' organizations including several from other MOAA Chapters across the state. We would always like to have more attendees, but in general this was a very good turnout for an event that is intended to let our state legislators know that the 600,000 plus veterans across the state represent a significant part of their constituencies.

Following the event we were also fortunate to be able to sit in on an interesting open hearing of the Senate Finance Committee. The committee

heard several bill presentations including SB 1025 which is being sponsored by State Senator Jack Harper to exempt benefits, annuities and pensions received as retired pay or survivor benefits of the uniformed services of the United States. While the bill has a really long way to go before it becomes law, it passed the review of the Senate Finance Committee anyway. The impact of such a bill to the state revenue was estimated at over \$20 million, so it would be a stretch to reasonably expect the whole thing. Maybe we will see the current maximum state exemption from state income taxes for military retired pay increased from its current \$2500 level anyway.

The crystal ball for viewing calendar year 2007 activity in Washington is still a bit cloudy due to the fact that the FY2008 President's Budget Request is not expected to be released until early February. We are, nevertheless, beginning to see a lot of activity on the national level. Our MOAA leaders in Washington have been active in supporting us on a number of fronts. They report that bills that didn't quite make it into law last year such as the ones to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset and to accelerate implementation of paid-up SBP are being reintroduced by their respective sponsors this year. Recognizing that the "all-or-nothing" approach taken to date on these issues has always been a very difficult thing to sell due to the large budget impact, alternative plans such as the phased implementation approach that was successful for eliminating the SBP age-62 offset

are also being considered.

We are watching closely the congressionally-chartered DOD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care which began its task in early January. This Task Force which was formed mainly to examine last year's controversial Pentagon proposal to triple and quadruple TRICARE fees for retirees under age 65 is required to return its recommendations concerning beneficiary fees and cost-sharing to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees by the end of May. Unfortunately the members of this Task Force are appointed by the Secretary of Defense, the very agency that proposed the controversial increases last year.

To counter what could be expected to be an unfavorable report from the Task Force, MOAA has been working with the offices of Senators Frank Lautenberg and Chuck Hagel and Representatives Chet Edwards and Walter Jones on new bills to limit TRICARE fee increases. If the bills progress as expected, look to the March issue of Military Officer to have subject matter postcards on the cover for us to tear off, sign and mail to our respective Congressmen and women urging their support.



MOAA Name Tags

Need a Chapter Name Tag? Order forms will be available at each meeting or call Dee Norton at 480-275-5089 to place your order. Please pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting, they can be mailed to you.

Personal Affairs *by Bernie Conway*

I overheard this from a couple of Auxiliary members at the MOAA 50th Anniversary dinner. By the way, to those who missed it, you missed a class act!

Anyhow, this one widow was commenting to the other on how much she had spent on her husband's funeral. She said she spent \$35,000. The other widow was aghast. How did you spend that much?

Well, she replied, the funeral director wanted \$5,000. The church provided a lovely service, and wonderful luncheon, and that came up to another \$5,000, and then the memorial came up to \$25,000'

Well, how large was the memorial? 2 & ½ Carets, she replied!

I sincerely hope all of you that are still a couple have taken the time to get your financial affairs in order, and that both of you know exactly what your financial condition is. I think if you have the checklist from the MOAA Survivors Handbook completed, that would be a giant step in knowing your status. Here's hoping you too can have a nice "Memorial"!

. - *Bernie*

P.S. I was just kidding about these being Auxiliary members. It might save you some time on checking rings at the next luncheon. I hope to see you there.

Reaching Out to Veterans, Spouses

Navy News - January 04, 2007

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an under-used, special monthly pension benefit called Aid and Attendance.

"Veterans have earned this benefit by their service to our nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson. "We want to ensure that every veteran or surviving spouse who qualifies has the chance to apply."

Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement. To qualify, claimants must be incapable of self support and in need of regular personal assistance.

The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit includes the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment. For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for

this special monthly pension, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, (October 16, 1981, for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the period for which they were ordered to active duty.

If all requirements are met, VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for unreimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Attendance benefit, VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Attendance threshold.

The Aid and Attendance income threshold for a veteran without dependents is now \$18,234 annually. The threshold increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent, and by \$1,866 for each additional dependent. The annual Aid and Attendance threshold for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715. This threshold increases to \$13,976 if there is one dependent child and by \$1,866 for each additional child.

Additional information and assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance benefit may be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000. Applications may be submitted on-line at www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp. Information is also available on the Internet at www.va.gov or from any local veterans' service organization.

February Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: February 17, 2007
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
12:00 Noon Lunch

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

COST: \$18.00 - Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: Jeff C. Young is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and Senior Vice President of First Financial Equity Corporation. He is also a popular motivational speaker throughout the Valley. His speech is titled "Humor is no laughing matter". Jeff discusses the importance of humor in our daily lives.

Reservations need to be received by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon date. Cancellations for reservations made need to be received by that same Thursday in order to receive your money back or not be charged for lunch. Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form on page 7.

-- *Marie Fredricks, Arrangements*

AZ Chapter MOAA 2007 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 Valley 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 were due on January 1, 2007, and will be delinquent 31 March. 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 have received a notification by email. If you disagree with your due date, please let Terry Tassin know.

A T T E N T I O N A U X I L I A R Y M E M B E R S

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

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

Arizona Chapter 2007 Membership Renewal Form

*Member Full Name: _____

*Membership Renewal: **\$20** Regular 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 black & white)

(Please consider receiving the Sentinel by email ONLY to help reduce production cost)

*E-Mail Address: _____

Any Changes in your address, phone number, etc: _____

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

Mail renewal application and check to:

**AZ CHAPTER MOAA
C/O Terry Tassin
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302**

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FEBRUARY SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

Tuesday 6	9-11 AM	WIGWAM RESORT 300 East Wigwam Blvd. - Litchfield Park, 85340
Tuesday 6	9-11 AM	FOOTHILLS GOLF CLUB 2201 East Clubhouse Dr. - Ahwatukee, 85048
Tuesday 6	7-9 PM	JW MARRIOTT DESERT RIDGE 5350 East Marriott Dr. - Phoenix, 85054
Wednesday 7	9-11 AM	POINTE SQUAW PEAK RESORT 7677 North 16th St. - Phoenix, 85020
Wednesday 7	7-9 PM	ARROWHEAD COUNTRY CLUB 19888 North 73rd Ave. - Glendale, 85308
Wednesday 7	7-9 PM	CROWNE PLAZA - SAN MARCOS GOLF RSRT. One San Marcos Place - Chandler, 85225
Thursday 8	9-11 AM	WINDEMERE HOTEL AND CONF. CENTER 5750 East Main St. - Mesa, 85205
Thursday 8	7-9 PM	CAMELBACK INN 5402 East Lincoln Dr. - Scottsdale, 85253
Saturday 10	9-11 AM	EL PEDREGAL AT THE BOULDERS 34505 North Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale, 85262
Saturday 10	9-11 AM	SUN CITY GRAND SONORAN PLAZA 19753 North Remington Dr. - Surprise, 85374

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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 17 February 2007

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** No Later Than: **15 February 2007**

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 - 2007 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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