



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

MAY 2007

CHARTERED 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



### President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

According to my wife, "The April meeting was wonderful. The tables were beautifully decorated, the beef tip lunch was superb, and our speaker Steve Irvin was charming and funny." I agree with her!

However, our May General Membership meeting is - for me - the highlight of the year. As most of you probably know, my "second career" after retirement from active duty was as the Senior Naval Science Instructor at the Apollo High School Navy Junior ROTC Unit. In fact, that was how I was recruited into the Arizona Chapter and national MOAA. I escorted a couple of my students to the evening dinner scholarship presentation at the Executive Park Hotel and before I could leave the

building Raymond Deane and Ron Green "convinced" me that becoming a member of the Arizona Chapter would be one of the best things I ever did. This promise turned-out to be true!

Now I have the pleasure of being directly involved in recognizing some hard-working JROTC students with financial scholarships. Again this year we will be presenting \$1000 scholarships to three very outstanding young men and women who will be graduating from high school in the next two months. These young people along with their parents and JROTC leaders will be joining us for lunch and scholarship presentations at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club on Armed Forces Day, May 19<sup>th</sup>. I cannot think of a more rewarding way for us to

be spending Armed Forces Day. I hope you will make every effort to join us and to make these young people feel welcome to our group.

Before we get to the May meeting day however, we have our Spring Golf Outing on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. This event helps provide funding for our scholarships. This is just a reminder that it is not too late to enter this event. Just call Pat Dale at 480-661-5204 and he will arrange it for you. This is a fun event and there is no pressure to be a good golfer - I would tell you my handicap but then I would have to eliminate you! Come on out and have some fun with us and help the Scholarship Fund.

Enjoy the lovely month of May because the heat is on the way!

### Arizona Chapter Calendar

#### May 3

- BOD Meeting 1:30, Location to be determined

#### May 4

- Spring Golf Tmx

#### May 19

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club with scholarship presentations.

#### June 16

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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### COLOR GUARD MEMBERS WANTED!

May contains a day of solemn remembrance for all of us - Memorial Day. As is our practice, we hope to have a Color Guard march in the parade held at the National Cemetery in the early morning (0800) on Memorial Day. So far we have a Color Guard Commander (Tom Houser), and two other volunteers (Bill Roscher & Paul Fein). The Color Guard needs at least one more volunteer and we would like to have at least one alternate member. If you would like to be considered for this service, please contact either Terry Tassin (623-931-1546) or Tom Houser (602-697-3123).

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

### New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter:

#### **CAPT Martin Sours USNR (Ret) and wife Jeanne**

201 E. Caribbean Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85022  
Tele: 602-993-0008  
Email: mhsours@yahoo.com

#### **CAPT Sam Storey USN (Ret) and wife Mary Ellen**

11545 N. 103rd Place  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
Tele: 480-451-4921  
Email: smstorey@cox.net

#### **CPT Paul Stough USA (Ret) and wife Dorothy**

8329 E. Oak Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257  
Tele: 480-946-7432  
Email: stoughdot@aol.com

#### **Col John Shannon USAF (Ret) and wife Beverly**

7083 E Eagle Feather Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262  
Tele: 480-663-3030  
Email: None

#### **LTC Michael Kilgore USA (Ret) and wife Jacqy**

6940 E. Continental Mt  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
Tele: 480-595-7554  
Email: kilgomc@hotmail.com

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members.

### **Luncheon Meeting Saturday, May 19 McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **May 19** 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 **May 17**. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

### **Coming Attractions!**

*By Chuck Schluter*

Don't miss the **May 19<sup>th</sup>** 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, and quite frankly we expend a lot of effort on this program. Join us as we present our Scholarship awards and hear testimony from the recipients – these young men and women have been fantastic!

The **June 16<sup>th</sup>** program will be rather special and certainly timely. An interest in the current events and lessons learned regarding expanded utilization and mission responsibilities of the Arizona National Guard and other Reserve units has been expressed by several of our members. BG Maxon, a member of both the Arizona Army National Guard and our Chapter will provide his personal perspective regarding those Reserve Components today. The uniqueness of Force structure, deployments, and rotations, heavy impact upon civilian careers, families and communities, unprecedented in scope as it is, promises to be both provocative as well as highly informative. Be there!

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Instead of taking our traditional summer break in July and August we are planning a trip to the Arizona Broadway Theatre. Group rates apply, and the show "Grease" seems perfect for a Saturday Matinee outing. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### **LAST MINUTE FLASH!**

We just received partial results of this year's Chapter Levels of Excellence Awards from national MOAA.

The Arizona Chapter was awarded:

1st Runner-Up - Best Web Site  
2nd Runner-up - Best Electronic Newsletter

#### **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 donations to the:

General Fund:

**Paul and Dorothy Stough - \$10**

## Legislative Update

*by Gary Fredricks*

The week of April 16 marked the annual MOAA Council President's Symposium and Storming the Hill Session in Washington D.C., with the actual "Storming" occurring on Wednesday, April 18. MOAA state leaders from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, joined by MOAA National Board of Directors and headquarters staff visited legislators and staffers on Capitol Hill to persuade them to support and cosponsor legislation effecting active military, retirees and survivors. This year, Arizona was ably represented by the current MOAA Council of Chapters President, Bob Delker, from the Superstition Mountain Chapter in the east valley and, once again, our own Chuck Schluter.

Having been our Council President the previous two years, I can attest to the fact that this is a personally rewarding and enjoyable experience, but is also a whole lot of work. Our national headquarters staff does an outstanding job in preparing material and our folks for the task, but it is ultimately up to our state representatives to carry the ball. My hat is off to Chuck and Bob for their efforts this year.

As Chuck reports in his "after action report," there were three issues covered during the "Storming" session this year. (Due to the limited time available with our Congressmen and women, the

effort needed to be finely focused.) The issues covered were arguing against the double and triple TRICARE fee increases for retirees and survivors that the DOD would like to see, continuing to advocate for fixing the remaining two major SBP inequities, and upgrading the proposed pay raise for active duty personnel. Our team argued that the anticipated TRICARE increases were out of line and provided a list of 16 other alternative ways to trim the TRICARE DOD budget. They discussed the need to eliminate the DIC offset to SBP and move forward to this year the implementation of the 30-year paid up SBP law. In order to reduce the existing 4% pay gap between military and civilian pay, they also pushed for increasing the active duty pay by 3.5% rather than the 3.0% proposed by the President.

Bob and Chuck were able to make appointments in the offices of all of our Senators and Representatives, a truly great accomplishment in the limited time available. As always during this time of year, actual availability of the principals is limited by voting commitments and other responsibilities, but being able to make our point to the key staffers in their offices is a significant accomplishment in itself. Our team met with Senator Kyle, Rep Renzi, Rep Grijalva, and Rep Gifford and, due to a voting commitment, a brief meeting with Rep Mitchell. They also met with key staffers in the offices of Sen. McCain, Rep Flake, Rep Shadegg, and Rep Pastor. Rep Franks was called to a vote and his key

staffer was at an off-site meeting, but a "leave behind" package was provided to his office.

Again, my hat is off and many thanks to Bob and Chuck for their efforts on our behalf. If you have not already done so, you can also help by providing additional "grass roots" support. Go to the MOAA website at [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org), click on Legislative Action Center, Getting Involved and Key Bills. Select a bill, enter your ZIP code and send a pre-written email to your congressmen/women. In particular look for HR 579 and S 604 (Protect against disproportionate health fee increases), HR 1589 and S 934 (Repeal the SBP-DIC offset) and HR 784 and S 935 (Accelerate paid up SBP).

## A few thoughts about the Storm.

*by Chuck Schluter*

So much happens during the annual MOAA Storm the Hill week that it's impossible to do justice to the incredible level of professionalism that one witnesses. We generally accept that the full time MOAA staff is perhaps the finest to be found anywhere, but during this week, they come together, engage and disengage with precision, redirect efforts and execute separate, but interlocking operations seamlessly. Every level of employee, regardless of their routine duties becomes an ambassador who meets the

*Continued on page 4*



Storm Thoughts.....continued from page 3

Council Presidents, every one of them is a diplomat, a problem solver, a friend and a mentor, but more importantly - every one of them becomes a top notch legislative assistant.

This year marks my final two-year stint as a Director. I am now in the Senior Class and am slated to "graduate" in 2008. Our new Chairman is General Michael Carns (USAF - Ret), and he has introduced several changes. My duties have changed also; I am now the Chairman of the Membership Committee and have a seat on the Executive Committee. A salary increase has not been mentioned, which is okay, I was concerned I would have to pay more to be there. This has been a wonderful experience and I know that I am one of the luckiest guys in the world.

I've already submitted a Storm the Hill After Action Report (Distributed via email on 22 April, with a follow up email pending from our Council President). So for now I'll simply share a few of the highlights of the week.

Typically, and this week was no different, we hold our separate committee meetings on Monday, and that evening we welcome our Council Presidents during a hosted reception. I looked forward to joining CW4 Bob Delker and his lovely wife Shirley for the evening, and by all accounts they had a great time.

The Board wrapped up its

business late on Tuesday morning. Most of us were still going strong, crossing "Tee's" and dotting the "eyes" when it was time to break for the Annual Marix Awards. I won't take the time here to elaborate too much on that evening because it will certainly be recapped in forthcoming MOAA publications.

But I will share something that touched me. A special MOAA award was slated for Gary Sinise, the star of the current TV show CSI-NY and many Hollywood movies. Today Gary is extremely active in the USO and frequently travels to Iraq and Afghanistan. In the movie, Forest Gump, Gary's role was that of "Lieutenant Dan", and when he travels overseas he entertains the troops as the leader of his "Lt Dan's Band". Gary is extremely motivated; he is dedicated and intensely serious about "not letting what happened to the Vietnam veterans...happen again". He is articulate and powerful. The audience for this event consists of Council Presidents, the Board, the Staff and many local dignitaries and DOD officials. And of course, our Auxiliary Advisory Committee members are present too. Our youngest Auxiliary Advisor is Jennifer McCollom. Jennifer lost her husband in Afghanistan early in that conflict. She has since testified before Congress regarding our SBP issues, and certainly she has appeared on several MOAA SBP pamphlets. She is one great young lady, she's as strong as she needs to be, but

on this evening she was moved to tears. Gary had concluded his acceptance "speech" and was signing a few autographs. I asked Jennifer if she intended to ask for an autograph, she answered "no", and then she told me that her husband's nickname was "Lt Dan". She was hurting, and you know the rest. I brought them together and briefly told Gary Jennifer's circumstances.

The look on his face conveyed the depth of his caring, his understanding, and he knew exactly what to do. He embraced her gently, and whatever he said, it was evidently the perfect choice of words. They held each other for a few moments, and then stepped apart, but still holding hands. Although their eyes were moist, as I was slipping away, I saw that each had touched something special in the other.

The following day we "Stormed the Hill", and I believe the efforts were well planned, and that the fruit of our dedication will be forthcoming. Unfortunately, the rest of my week was consumed by non-Storm duties, and I returned late on Friday evening.

**Meeting Survey Results**  
*by Marie Fredricks*

We would like to thank all those who were at the March Luncheon who took part in our Survey. We had 40 attendees at lunch and 36 answered our

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survey. Considering we had some guests, all the members and spouses participated!

The results were: the majority of the attendees were satisfied with the luncheons and the majority of those people would not be opposed to paying more, if required. About 1/3 of the participants would not mind a lighter lunch and another 1/3 would like a brunch once in a while.

As we will be negotiating our contract with McCormick Ranch in the very near future, we appreciate your comments and suggestions.

**Auxiliary Corner**  
Extracted from MOAA's  
*The Affiliate*

When I developed vision problems and could no longer drive, I was devastated and wondered how I could attend meetings of the various organizations to which I belong, including my MOAA chapter. I was reluctant to ask for assistance as I had always been so independent. As time went by, I realized that if I were to continue to lead a reasonably normal life, I had to ask for help.

When I explained to my MOAA chapter the difficulty I was having attending meetings, the chapter came to the rescue. A notice went out in our chapter newsletter pointing out that some members were unable to drive and had difficulty getting to meetings. As a result, the chapter soon developed a list of volunteers who pick up members at the local transportation hub and drive them back. Some are even picked up at their homes. This has been a godsend to me and others. I am

so glad that I swallowed my pride and asked for help.

I am urging those of you who find yourselves needing assistance to check with your MOAA chapter to see if it offers a similar program so you can continue to attend meetings. If not, then you might suggest that the chapter organize one. I understand that many chapters have such programs, so getting to meetings might be only a phone call away. Don't delay making that call. Your chapter can help!

**Personal Affairs**  
*by Bernie Conway*

The MOAA website has been updated to include on line copies of "Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide To Planning Ahead".

This includes the entire manual, plus 3 Appendices that outline the forms to be filled out to notify your surviving spouse of everything he or she may need to know in case of your incapacitation or death. I have heard we are all going to die some day, as much as we hate to admit it!

Get on the MOAA Website at [www.moaa.org/](http://www.moaa.org/), click on publications, then Books and Guides, and scroll down to Help Your Survivors, etc. These forms can be filled-in on line, or you can print the blank forms, and fill

them in by hand. You can also call 1-800-234-6622, with your member number and MOAA will mail a copy of the guide to you free of charge.

If by chance you have not joined the computer generation, or do not have a printer, give me a call at 480-994-0440, and I will get you copies of the forms that need to be completed. I will send you the forms only if I have a promise from you that you will complete the forms. An uncompleted form is as much use to your survivor as a blank piece of paper, and I suspect you may have a sheet or two of that around your house!

I can't over emphasize the importance of getting this information on paper while your spouse can still help you. And remember, this is a two way street. The info is required for both members of the marriage, if there are still two.

By the way, what have you done about a Living Will?

**May Luncheon Meeting**

**WHEN:** May 19, 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:** Annual JROTC Scholarship awards.

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



**Don't Miss Out!**  
**Send your checks today to reserve your seats!**

The Arizona Chapter of MOAA has reserved a limited number of seats at the

**ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE**  
7701 W Paradise Lane  
Peoria, AZ

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 14, 2007

**TIME:** 11:15 am - 11:45 am.....Registration/Cocktails in Lobby  
11:45 am - 12:15 am.....Backstage Tour  
12:15 pm - 2:00 pm.....Lunch  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.....Performance of musical - "**GREASE**"

**COST:** \$42 per person

This includes all of the above including gratuity. Alcoholic beverages, soda, and dessert are extra.

**-- COMPLETE THEATRE RESERVATION FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK --**

Reserve your seats NOW by sending a check payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA". Mail checks to:

**MARIE FREDRICKS**  
**15403 E. Sunburst Dr**  
**Fountain Hills, AZ 85268**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the performance of **GREASE**, July 14, 2007.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$42.00 per person) **ALL SALES ARE FINAL!**

- Don't miss this opportunity to see this great theatre and enjoy the company of your fellow members of Arizona Chapter MOAA! The deadline for Marie (phone 480-836-8419) to receive a check is **June 28, 2007**.
- **Remember - Seats are limited! and we have many members who already have indicated they will attend. Mail your checks today!**





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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 **19 May 2007**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 17 May 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.



**Benson H Huddleston**  
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### The Arizona Chapter - MOAA - 2007 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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

**Arizona Chapter**  
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