

Minutes of the FEBRUARY 2008 Board of Director's Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM, Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the State Veteran's Home on N. 3rd St. Phoenix with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Terry Tassin, Gary & Marie Fredricks, Chuck Schluter, Ron Green, Dan Conway, Bill Johnson, Rob Welch, and Ron Drew.

Minutes: The previously promulgated Minutes of the last Board of Director's meeting (December) were approved.

Guest Speaker: CDR Katherine O'Neill Tracy USNR, Deputy Director, Benefits Information, National MOAA, spoke in detail on benefits information of concern to all members of MOAA.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Johnson provided a proposed budget for 2008 which was accepted as presented. He also reported the present status of fund accounts:

General Checking:	\$6829.89
Scholarship:	\$8250.76
Total Accounts:	\$15080.65

The Treasurer is looking for a volunteer to be his assistant in keeping the Chapter's financial books. If interested contact Terry Tassin 623-931-1546

JROTC Medals: Terry Tassin reported the letters have been sent out to the schools. Volunteers are needed for presentations at annual JROTC award ceremonies. If you are interested, contact Terry Tassin 623-931-1546. If members presented to a specific school last year and would like to represent the AZ Chapter at that school again this year, a call to Terry will suffice.

Membership: 154 of 212 members have paid their 2008 dues. Dan Conway has completed the first mail-out of dues reminder letters. The second mail notice will take place after the February general meeting, to be followed up if necessary by phone calls. Dan Conway will concentrate his Give Me 10 recruiting efforts this year on Guard and Reserve personnel.

Taps: Notice received of the passing of Auxiliary member Lorraine Pritchard. Memorial donation to be made in her name to the AZ Veterans Home.

Legislative: Gary Fredricks reported that the Governor has replied to his effort as UAV President to raise awareness of veterans' concerns regarding the budget shortfall and the possible impact on Arizona veterans. In her letter, the Governor stated "In my plan, spending for veterans' services is among the critical services exempted from reductions." This is construed to be a positive response from the Governor.

Newsletter Advertising: Express Scripts and Morris, Hall, Kinghorn have agreed to again run their full page ads in The Sentinel for 2008. This will help offset the production costs of the newsletter.

Newsletter Editor: The board of directors will urge members to step forward to assume the duties of newsletter editor beginning at the end of May 2008. This will give the new editor three months during the summer shut down to become familiar with the duties of the editor.

Scholarships: Notification letters mailed to schools. Due to a down turn in the economy, Courtesy Chevrolet may only be able to donate \$1000 to the scholarship fund this year. Additional sources of funding are being sought.

Old Business:

AZ Tax Exemption of Military Retired Pay: Rob Welch gave an excellent Power Point presentation on a proposal to stimulate Arizona's economy by eliminating the State Income Tax on the military pensions of veterans. A committee made up of, Committee Chair Dan Conway, Rob Welch, and Chuck Schluter will pursue this matter further.

ESGR presentations: Chuck Schluter is the "lead" officer on this matter. Presentations will take place at either the September or November general meeting.

New Business:

Communication Awards submission: Awards packet submitted to national in January.

Luncheon Greeters for next luncheon meeting: Frank & Velma Birtciel

Chapter Outreach Project: It was recommended the Chapter support an outreach project where volunteers would be used at the Arizona State Veteran Home in their "Adopt-A-Vet" program. This program matches volunteers in the community with a veteran living in their nursing home. Volunteers come in to visit, play a game of checkers or take them for a stroll in the park next door. There are three levels of commitment depending upon your availability. Details to be provided by email and newsletter.

Good of the Order:

Voices Take Flight program location has been changed from the Sun Dome to the Phoenix First Assembly, 13613 N. Cave Creek Road, Phoenix, AZ on Saturday March 8, 2008 from 2:00 to 4:30pm.

Berthing of Coast Guard Academy Choir members. Members are encouraged to offer room(s) for members of the choir participating in the Voices Take Flight program. If a Chapter member wishes to provide quarters for these students contact Dan Conway at 480-368-1427.

Spring Golf Tournament has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, 25 April. Details to be included in The Sentinel.

Phoenix Suns Tickets will be auctioned off at both the February and March luncheon meetings. These are Ron Drew's season tickets and are excellent seats.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM

Submitted,
Terry Tassin for Ron Perkins, AZ Chapter MOAA Secretary