

Minutes of the December 2009 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on December 19, 2009 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 11:52 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation

Members Present: Total people present: **47**; 42 members & 5 guests.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$7,064.18 and the Scholarship fund is at \$11,480.95 for a total of \$18,545.13

2010 Dues: Ron Perkins encouraged those who haven't paid, to pay their 2010 dues as they are due now.

Toys for Tots: Terry Tassin will be delivering the donated toys today.

StandDown: Ron Perkins explained the StandDown event scheduled for February 5, 6, & 7, 2010 to help homeless veterans. There were sign-up sheets at each table to volunteer for setup and sorting clothing on February 4th. The shifts are scheduled from 7 a.m. to noon and noon to 5 p.m. Debbie Robinson will contact volunteers with logistics and specific assignments after the first of the year. This year over 700 veterans were served and over 1,000 are expected in 2010. Ron will include information in *The Sentinel*. You may also e-mail Ron if you are interested in volunteering your support. Today's *Arizona Republic* included an article with additional specifics about the event. Our chapter already donated \$500 but the organizers are soliciting additional donations of money and clothing such as new socks, sweats, underwear, hiking shoes, etc.

Legislative Report: Dan Conway encouraged everyone to get on the MOAA website (<http://www.moaa.org>) for current information on health care issues. Dan requested everyone to submit MOAA's suggested letter to your congressperson via the website. You may add your personalized comments to the letter. Rob Welch re-iterated how easy it is and everything will pre-populate once you're set up. The system identifies your legislators by your zip code and you receive a confirmation that your e-mail was sent. Chuck Schluter indicated there are about 370,000 MOAA members but the goal is for one million letters to be sent. Chuck encouraged everyone to reach out to family members, friends, and neighbors to enter their e-mail addresses so we can reach the million letter goal.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway encouraged everyone to read Laurie Roberts' column about Marie Long in today's *Arizona Republic* to be aware of the problems that can occur when an elderly person's assets are mismanaged.

Dickens Carolers: Ron Perkins introduced the Dickens Carolers "Dancer" Quartet. They sang beautiful Christmas music throughout lunch.

Lunch was served and thoroughly enjoyed with the Dickens Carolers entertainment.

American Legion: Sully Truesdell gave a brief pitch to join American Legion Post 44 at 7145 E. 2nd Street, Scottsdale. She provided a handout which showed the type of daily menus and events offered. The entire post has been refurbished including a new patio and ¾ is smoke free. She explained the prices are great with meals ranging from \$3 to \$12 and beverages from \$2 to \$5 including alcoholic beverages. There is a \$40 annual membership fee with profits supporting groups such as veterans, active duty military, and other worthy causes.

Chinese Auction: Ron Perkins reviewed the Chinese auction rules. Participants purchased raffle tickets for a chance to select a present. There were many gifts supplied by the Chapter board members and all proceeds from the ticket sales, \$277, went to the Scholarship Fund. It was great fun for all.

Coming Events: Ron Perkins announced the January guest speaker will be Neville Cramer, retired Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Special Agent. Neville served more than 26 years as a law enforcement officer with the INS. He has written a couple books on immigration addressing problems and suggesting solutions. Ron encouraged all to attend on January 16, 2010.

Adjournment: 2:12 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Secretary