

Minutes of the November 2009 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on November 21, 2009 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation

Members Present: Total people present: **43**; 42 members & 1 guest.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$6,093.03 and the Scholarship fund is at \$11,394.55 plus \$50 in petty cash for a combined total of \$17,537.58.

StandDown: Ron Perkins provided a copy of an article in today's AZ Republic by Art Sloane about the StandDown event scheduled for February to help homeless veterans. Our chapter already donated \$500 and Ron is working with Art to determine opportunities for manpower support.

5 Star Level of Excellence Award: Ron Perkins attended the MOAA Annual Meeting and accepted the award banner presented by General Richard Neal, USMC, MOAA Chairman of the Board. Our chapter was recognized with the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award for the fifth consecutive year.

2010 Dues: The board agreed annual dues remain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for auxiliary members. Ron Perkins reminded those that haven't paid to complete the form in the *Sentinel* and send it along with your dues to Bill Roscher.

Toys for Tots: Once again you can bring unwrapped toys to next month's luncheon meeting. Stuffed animals are discouraged and there is a particular need for the 9-12 year-old age group.

Legislative Report: Gary Fredricks provided an overview at both the state and national levels. Arizona continues to deal with the constitutional requirement for a balanced budget. However, the budget for the Tucson VA Center is protected with ground breaking scheduled for February 2010. National is asking for support via e-mails to your congressperson to reverse the 21% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors that would become effective in January 2010. Gary directed members to the National MOAA website www.moaa.org Legislative Section to use MOAA's suggested message. Gary emphasized a need for clarification, fixing the payment formula, and allowing flexible spending accounts for those working. Simply enter your name and address then hit send to use the verbiage provided by MOAA. Gary also mentioned the indictment of the former Arizona VA director indicating the newspaper reports appear to be fairly accurate. Many of the eight major recommendations resulting from an audit of the VA Department have already been implemented and are being monitored to prevent a recurrence. Gary feels the department is now in good order.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway recently was on the same commercial flight with several Arizona legislators including Senator Jon Kyl. Dan was able to discuss TRICARE and Medicare issues. Dan is writing a letter to each Senator suggesting, in a nutshell, the solution is to get back to self-sustaining trust funds and out of the federal budget. Dan shared the reason for his trip to Washington DC was to attend a burial in Arlington National Cemetery that he arranged for a veteran who died 20 years ago. The WWII veteran had half a dozen Bronze Stars, Silver Star, and Purple Heart and his ashes had simply been stored until now. Dan then briefly reminded us that veterans, including their spouses, can be buried together in a military cemetery. The ceremonies are very nice.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks reported next month's program will be terrific with the *Dickens Carolers* and the annual Chinese auction. A raffle tickets gets you into the drawing for one of the wonderful gifts provided by the Board members and all ticket sales go to the scholarship fund.

Lunch was served and as always, enjoyed by all.

Veterans' Recognition: Ron Perkins had those present who served in WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom stand and be recognized. This highlighted the fact that the majority of our members are retired and we need young blood.

Election of 2010 Officers: Ron Perkins thanked Gary Fredricks who solicited nominees for all slots and read the slate of nominees:

President - Ron Perkins; 1st VP – Gregg Maxon; 2nd VP – John Ady; Secretary – Beth Cullison, Treasurer – Bill Roscher; Directors – Ron Green, Dan Conway, Kathy Upchurch, Rob Welch, and Ron Worthington. Ron then called for further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Ron moved that the slate be approved; seconded by Terry Tassin. The slate was approved.

Presentation of Chapter's Meritorious Service Awards: Ron Perkins announced each award with a brief description of the recipient's specific contributions to our chapter and whether they had received a previous award. He emphasized the strength of our chapter is in large part, due to their support and involvement.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Col John R. Ady USAR (Ret) | - 1 st Award |
| Capt Daniel M. Conway USCG (Ret) | - 3 rd Award |
| Lt Col James D. Cullison USAF (Ret) | - 1 st Award |
| Mrs. Patricia Dale | - 2 nd Award |
| Col Patrick L Dale USAFR (Ret) | - 4 th Award |
| Col Gary W. Fredricks USAF (Ret) | - 5 th Award |
| Mrs. Marie Fredricks | - 3 rd Award |
| Capt Cecil E. Houser USAF (Ret) | - 3 rd Award |
| Col William G. Roscher USA (Ret) | - 1 st Award |
| Col Charles H. Schluter USA (Ret) | - 6 th Award |
| Col Arthur R. Worthington USAFR (Ret) | - 3 rd Award |

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$115 with \$60 going to the foundation; five prizes were awarded: one \$5, three \$10s and one \$20 for a total of \$55 awarded.

Tillman: Chuck Schluter shared his experience at a recent Cardinals Game he attended with members of ESGR. He was able to meet Pat Tillman's wife, Marie Tillman which he described as a very humbling experience.

Coming Events: Ron Perkins wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and reiterated the December luncheon will be fun for all with the Dickens Carolers and Chinese Auction. The more raffle tickets you buy, the more chances for claiming a gift. And everyone is invited to attend the December 3rd Chapter Board meeting at the State Veteran's Home on North Third Street, 11 AM – 1 PM.

Adjournment: 1:44 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Interim Secretary