

Minutes of the September 2009 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on September 19, 2009 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob Rutherford then gave an invocation

Members Present: Total people present: **64**; 59 members & 5 guests.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$6,816.84 and the Scholarship fund is at \$11,128.83 for a combined total of \$17,945.67.

5 Star Level of Excellence Award: Ron Perkins announced our chapter won the 5 Star Excellence Award. Ron will accept the award along with a banner for the chapter at the National Conference in October. Our chapter has also been recognized for our electronic newsletter and runner up for our web design.

AVHOF: The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame annually recognizes and honors Arizona veterans who have honorably served their country through military service and who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime. Arizona Chapter members Carl Schneider, MG USAF (Ret.) and the late Bill Jenkins, Capt. (USN), will be honored this year at the October 30th induction ceremony. Reservations can be made on-line at www.avhof.org and should be placed prior to October 1 as the price increases at that time.

Legislative: Gary Fredricks reported that he and Marie Fredricks attended the annual conference in Pennsylvania. The focus has been on the National Defense Authorization Act and Health Care Reform. There are 112 bills potentially impacting active &/or retired military. Ron Perkins explained that National headquarters has requested liaisons to our district representatives. We have volunteers for Representative Harry Mitchell and Senator McCain but still need a liaison for Representative Ed Pastor. National will provide the liaisons with talking points to express our issues of concern.

October 17th Picnic: Marie Fredricks reminded everyone our October meeting is a picnic at McCormick/Stillman RR Park. She has arranged a fabulous menu and provided a flyer with all the details. ESGR (Employer Support for Guard & Reserves) will honor employers for their support of the Guard & Reserves.

Veterans' TV: Ron Perkins announced our chapter donated a 50" HD plasma TV with surround sound to the Veterans Hospital. Ron encouraged members to take a look at it in the Community Living Center.

Golf Tournament Report: Ron Perkins pronounced the Fall Golf Tournament a great success with special thanks to Pat Dale and his wife Patty for all their hard work. It made over \$1,300 and was our best fund raiser to date. The next tournament will be in April 2010.

Personal Affairs: The September issue of *Military Officer Magazine* included an article featuring Dan Conway and John Ady. The article was about chapters setting up personal affairs programs to help members and surviving spouses navigate through the maze of benefits and entitlements. Ron Perkins indicated it is a very nice article well worth reading.

Homeless Veterans and Stand Down: Ron Perkins announced the Chapter Board agreed to donate \$500 to this effort. It is a very worthy cause focused on helping homeless US Veterans including food, medical, clothing, haircuts, and housing support. In 2008, the event served 502 (3% women) and this year 743 were served (6% women). Over 1,000 homeless vets are anticipated to attend next year's event in February. Ron has prepared a flyer for the next Sentinel including a request for additional donations and will get details on how our chapter can provide volunteer support during the event.

Share-A-Ride Update: Ron Perkins indicated he will be taking over arranging transportation when needed for members to attend our meetings.

National Guard Send-Off: Ron Perkins will be providing details on an upcoming sendoff for a local National Guard unit that will be soon be deployed. All are encouraged to attend. The event is scheduled for 1 PM, Monday October 5th at Papago Park. Details will include an e-mail address to RSVP if you plan to attend.

USAF Anniversary: Chuck Schluter reminded everyone to celebrate the US Air Force 62nd birthday this month.

Illness: Velma Birtciel, wife of long time member Frank Birtciel, is ill. We wish her well and Ron Perkins will keep us updated.

Lunch was served and as always, enjoyed by all.

Guest Speaker: Colonel Gregg Davies, Commander of the 214th Reconnaissance Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, gave a fascinating and informative presentation. He explained the use of the MQ-1 Predator including specific situations/examples. He gave a brief overview of several planes and the evolution of unmanned aircraft used in combat missions. The presentation prompted much Q&A.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle earned \$161; four \$20 prizes were awarded.

Benediction: Bob Rutherford gave the benediction.

Adjournment: 2:03 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Interim Secretary