

## Minutes of the April 2011 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on April 16, 2011, at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President John Ady called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

**Members Present:** John Ady welcomed all and introduced guests at each table. Total people present: **48** including 46 members/spouses, 2 guests.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$11,284.43 and the Scholarship fund is \$13,001.79 with an additional \$50 in petty cash for a total of \$24,336.22. The golf tournament brought in \$1,178.72. Bill said TriWest is no longer donating \$500 to the golf tournament, which is a big loss for the scholarship fund. He asked everyone to add \$10 to your next luncheon meeting reservation which Bill will put towards the scholarship fund. John Ady said about 50% of the scholarship fund comes from the golf tournaments, so any additional contributions will really help make up the TriWest loss.

**Arrangements:** Marie Fredricks said she still has a few tickets left for the June 25<sup>th</sup> dinner play *All Shook Up*. The cost is \$50.25 per person and includes the show, complete meal with soft drinks/ice tea/coffee and gratuity. You order off a menu and it's a fun event to socialize with other members.

**Auxiliary:** Kathy Upchurch reported the auxiliary and member spouses will continue to support Bingo the first Thursday of every month at the Veterans Home through the summer months. Please contact Kathy on 602-799-0240 or via e-mail at ksupchur@cox.net if you can help on May 5<sup>th</sup> or any of the following months.

**Programs:** Chuck Schluter apologized for the cancellation of today's scheduled speaker, Betty Tackaberry Blake, a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) in World War II. Although Betty had to cancel at the last minute, member Dr. Paul Schnur, who often presents at various cruises, stepped up to give a presentation on making wine.

**Legislative Report:** Gary Fredricks just returned from a full week in Washington, D.C., for *Storming the Hill*. Gary was involved in many activities including preparation for *Storming the Hill*, a seminar for the State Council Presidents, presentations, and face-to-face meetings with many representatives and senators to support key legislative priorities. Gary also learned the winners of MOAA's annual communication awards. There were 69 awards and the eight Arizona chapters won seven of the 69; three of the seven were awarded to our chapter:

- First Place for our recruiting brochure developed by Dan Conway
- First Runner Up for *The Sentinel*, Jim Cullison, Editor
- First Place for our new website developed and maintained by Rob Welch

MOAA presented its top annual awards to individuals and organizations for their outstanding support of the military and veterans' community. MOAA's award for Congressional Leadership was presented to:

- Senator Daniel Akaka (Democrat-Hawaii) for his leadership in winning upgraded VA benefits for wounded warrior caregivers and women veterans and a package of major improvements to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.
- Representative Joe Wilson (Republican-SC) for championing efforts to upgrade military pay raises, eliminate penalties for disabled retirees & survivors, prohibit inappropriate TRICARE fee increases, and relieve inequities affecting the Guard and Reserve.

MOAA's Distinguished Service Award was presented to:

- William Hite, General President of the United Association of Plumbing & Pipe Fitting Industry, for leadership in helping veterans find meaningful jobs in the construction industry.
- Lieutenant General Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, for his innovative initiatives, including the Employer Partnership Program and the virtual installation concept to support families who don't live near military facilities.
- Dollar General Corporation for its strong support of its Guard, Reserve and veteran employees.
- Sesame Workshop for its work with the USO in establishing the "Sesame Street Experience for Military Families," which helps military families, especially children, cope with deployment-related conditions and other stresses of military life.

This year, the "Hill-stormers" met with their legislators to focus on:

- Protecting the currently serving force against manpower cuts and pay raise cutbacks
- Capping any future TRICARE fee increases at the COLA percentage
- Make progress toward ending unfair compensation penalties imposed on thousands of disabled retirees, military survivors, and Guard/Reserve warriors

Gary indicated they received very positive feedback from most legislators and hope to see a jump in the number of cosponsors for MOAA-supported bills on these topics. The budget continues to be a stumbling block to fund many initiatives. John Ady commended Gary on his continued hard work and voiced his pride for the awards our chapter earned.

**Membership:** Beth Cullison reported with the addition of Hoyt Slocum, our chapter currently has 197 members in good standing.

**Lunch** was served and enjoyed by all.

**Dr. Paul Schnur:** John Ady introduced Dr. Schnur, who quickly stepped up as today's speaker. Paul joined our chapter in 2009, is a retired surgeon, and has a son-in-law who is a Navy surgeon who just returned from serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Several

cruise lines hire Paul to join a cruise and provide presentations on various topics. Therefore, he had a ready-made presentation, complete with slides, entitled “Enology & Viticulture” (From Vine to Wine). After retirement from the medical profession, Paul received a Master Gardener degree from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. Paul gave an absorbing presentation including an overview of the history of wine, many interesting facts, and the four levels of making your own wine including recommendations on how to get started. He has his own vineyard in Sedona, Bedside Manor Estates, and displayed several bottles sporting his label.

**Chapter 50/50 Raffle** collected \$174 with all going to the scholarship fund. Three prizes were awarded and all recipients donated their winnings to the scholarship fund.

**Benediction** provided by John Ady

**Adjournment:** 1405 hours

Respectfully submitted:  
Beth Cullison, Secretary