



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

8213 E. Del Camino Dr.

Scottsdale, AZ

85258

MAY 2011

CHARTERED 1956 - 54 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by Jon Ady



Spring Has Sprung

Hello everyone. Spring is definitely here and this is a busy time of the year for our chapter as most of you know.

We just completed our semi-annual golf tournament at the Painted Mountain Golf Club in Mesa under the able leadership of Pat Dale on April 8, and a great time was had by all. Did you know that approximately 50% of the funds for the Junior ROTC Scholarships we provide each May are directly derived from these golf outings? If you have not played in the past, I suggest you come out for the Fall event which will be announced in the coming months. It is a great way to meet your fellow members and other participants, and as all the players can tell you, being a good golfer is not a requirement!

We're Still Busy

As we move into May, a number of chapter members will continue to be involved with passing out MOAA awards at area

high schools at special Junior ROTC functions. In addition, the members of our color guard will be at the National Cemetery on Memorial Day to pay homage to all those comrades in arms and spouses that are now at rest there. If you have not been out for the ceremonies at the National Cemetery in the past, you may want to include it in your holiday plans as area organizations both public and private do a wonderful job in planning and conducting this annual event.

It's Scholarship Time

May also is our last chapter meeting until September with the program devoted to the Junior ROTC cadets who will be receiving our scholarships. Rob Welch and his committee have done an outstanding job in tending to all the details necessary to make this project a continuing

success. In my view it is one of the better things we do in the community as a chapter. Please plan on joining us for the luncheon on Saturday, May 21, to meet these outstanding young people, their parents and JROTC advisors.

MOAA Guests

Also on hand for this meeting will be some members from other Arizona MOAA chapters who are coming in the day before to attend the semi-annual Arizona Council of Chapters meeting that we are hosting in Fountain Hills.

Be a Recruiter

As we move into the summer months, I wish you all the very best. And don't forget that we will never have enough good members, so remember our "Bring In A Buddy" Program is always in need of a few more good men and women! Thank you for your continued support of your chapter!



A Wine Tale

How did a bottle of wine figure into the April chapter luncheon? Find out on Page 3.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours, Rm. A107, in the Arizona Veterans Home, 3rd Street and Indian School Road. Members are invited to attend.

Upcoming meetings:
• May 5
• September 1

Member Meetings/ Luncheons:

Note: The May luncheon agenda begins a half hour earlier than usual, Social Hours at 10:30 and Lunch at 11:30. at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Don't be late.

Upcoming meetings:
• May 21
• September 17

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May Luncheon Program

5 Outstanding JROTC Cadets To Receive \$1,000 Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee, consisting of Bill Roscher, Ron Green and Rob Welch, reviewed this year's applications and recommended five JROTC cadets to the Board of Directors for scholarships.

The following high school seniors were approved for \$1,000 scholarships by the Board:

- Jaime Martinez, Jr., North Army JROTC
- Carolina G. Mora, Alhambra Army JROTC
- Lyna Ngo, Sandra Day O'Connor Air Force JROTC
- Jennifer M. Ellis, Moon Valley Navy JROTC
- Geneva MacFarlane Turnbull, Cortez Navy JROTC

These outstanding cadets will receive their scholarships at our May 21 luncheon. Their parents and senior military instructors have been invited to share in their recognition.

Plan to attend to support, congratulate and hear from these future leaders.



A Fine Day for Golf

It was a breezy and cool day, but the spring golf tournament on April 8 was filled with fun, food, prizes and an \$1,100 boost to the Chapter Scholarship Fund, despite a major sponsor pulling out.

Dick Minor, top left, sizes up his tee shot, while Kathy Davis, below left, keeps a close eye on her chip shot.

At top right, Patricia Dale provides nourishment to workers at the registration table, much to their delight. Below, Nancy Burt makes a sale to Scott Essex — \$5 for a sleeve of golf balls and a chance to win \$10 by putting his tee shot on a par 3 green. Not easy with a tricky wind, but some players did it.



Donations to Chapter Funds

Scholarship Fund

\$200, Transource (A Defense Contractor)

\$25, Edward B. Waldmann

\$10, Anonymous

General Fund

\$25, Edward B. Waldmann

Come to Lunch, Support Scholarships

Chapter members have an easy way to support the Scholarship Fund when registering for a monthly luncheon. Just add \$10 to your reservation fee — \$30 instead of \$20 for one person, \$50 for two — and Treasurer Bill Roscher will deposit the extra \$10 in the Scholarship Fund.

Donations are an important source of financial support for our chapter and scholarship program. Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated. The Scholarship Fund is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable fund, and donations to it are tax deductible.



From Vine to Grape to Bottle, a Winemaker's Story

(Editor's Note: Scheduled speaker Betty Blake was unable to attend the April luncheon, so one of our talented members rose to the occasion and spoke on one of his hobbies, winemaking.)

When Dr. Paul Schnur retired from his medical practice, he needed something to fill his spare time. TV watching didn't seem very appealing, so he took up a more ambitious pursuit: growing his own grapes and making his own wine.



Paul gave an overview of the history of wine and then described his process for producing wine as guest speaker at the chapter's April luncheon.

He and his wife Barbara own property in Sedona that was suitable for grape vines, and thus a post-retirement hobby was born.

For hobbyists, there are four levels of winemaking, he said:

With a wine kit, from prepared juice, from purchased grapes, or from home grown grapes, which he said is the most laborious method...and is the one he chose.

It's a hands-on process, from the first buds in spring through the grape harvest and crushing to extract the juice. Paul said that the first year he crushed the grapes using Barbara's potato masher. But the grape yield has grown in succeeding years, and he now has more sophisticated equipment, along with friends who help with the workload.

He has his own label, Bedside Manor Estates. The perfect name for wine produced by a physician. (Some examples at top right)

In recounting the history of wine, Paul noted that winemaking probably originated in the middle eastern area of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The first written record of wine is from the Bible's Old Testament, where Noah celebrated with wine following the great flood. However, evidence of wine has been dated as

far back as 6,000 B.C. The Romans refined winemaking, but it was the French who became prominent in the craft.



Missionaries in California made wine for sacramental use in the 1600s, but Russian immigrants to Sonoma began winemaking for consumption in 1812.

Agoston Harazsthy, a pioneering winemaker in California, brought cuttings from Europe that jump-started the wine industry in this country. In a strange twist, a pesky little louse infected and destroyed the French vines in 1865, so cuttings from America, which were impervious to the louse, were brought to France. Today, about 85% of French vines are from American rootstock.

Arizona now has a thriving wine industry, but it began in Sedona in the 1880s to serve the miners in Jerome and the soldiers at the Army's nearby Camp Verde. "They had to have something to drink," Paul said.



Army Cadet Ulyses Sarmiento of Central High School was presented his JROTC medal by **Arizona Chapter Member Bill Adams** on April 21. Chapter members are presenting medals sponsored by MOAA at area high school JROTC award ceremonies throughout April and May.

Chapter Scores Communication Awards Hat Trick

By John Ady
President

Hockey Fans all know the term "hat trick" which signifies when a player scores three or more goals in a game.

Well, as far as we know the chapter does not have any active members playing hockey, but we did score a hat trick in the communications awards announced by MOAA at a recent national meeting. All in all, 69 awards were presented and Arizona chapters won seven of the 69, with three of them going to our chapter!

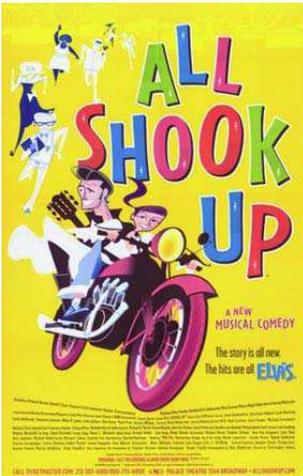
Our recruiting brochure developed by Dan

Conway received a first place for chapters of our size. In addition, our website (AZChapterMOAA.org), totally redeveloped by Rob Welch, was awarded first place. Finally, for the second year in a row, our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, published by Jim Cullison was first runner-up.

No chapter of any size in MOAA won more awards than ours, and we should all be very proud of that fact. We all need to thank Dan, Rob and Jim for their ongoing splendid work which allowed these fine achievements to be recognized by MOAA.

Take a Break This Summer

At the Chapter's Arizona Broadway Theater Outing, Saturday, June 25: Socialize, Lunch and Show



The show is **All Shook Up**, which is built around the songs made famous by Elvis Presley. *Heartbreak Hotel, Love Me Tender, Hound Dog, It's Now or Never, Don't Be Cruel, Jailhouse Rock*, and many others are the iconic hits that create the perfect backdrop for finding love in the unlikeliest of places. The scene, a small midwestern town. The players, a young girl with big dreams and a guy on a motorcycle. You'll have to make your reservation to find out what happens.

\$50.25 Per Ticket Includes lunch, iced tea, coffee, water and gratuity. Other drinks and dessert are not included.
Socialize at Noon, lunch at 12:30. Then get "All Shook Up"

Theater location: 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria

RSVP no later than June 1

Make checks payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail along with the form below to:

Marie Fredricks, 15403 E. Sunburst Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Phone: 480-836-8419

E-mail: garymarie@cox.net

----- Clip Here -----

Name (Please Print): _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Amount Enclosed (# tickets x \$50.25): _____



Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

Basic Retirement Benefits

I find from time to time that we have members who are not receiving our earned retirement benefits. I was in that situation some time ago when I learned from the Mayo Clinic that, as a military retiree, I was eligible for pharmacy benefits.

To help others who might be in the same situation, listed below are our basic retirement benefits.

Retirement Pay: This is our most important retirement benefit. It is not a problem for those who retire on active duty. However, it can be a problem for a retired reservist. The problem is that the reservist finishes his or her reserve duty by entering the "Gray Area" and remaining there with virtually no service contact until becoming eligible for retirement pay at age 60. At that time, it is the responsibility of the reservist to request retirement pay. Delaying this request does not result in a higher rate of pay.

Social Security: Military service qualifies for Social Security benefits. You must be at least age 62 to start collecting Social Security retirement benefits. You can start collecting benefits anywhere from age 62 up to age 70. Delaying the start of receiving benefits increases the amount of the monthly benefit. Under the spousal benefit, a spouse who has not worked or who has substantially lower earnings can receive up to as much as one-half of the retired worker's full benefit. There are rules for divorced spouses, for widows, for the disabled, and for children of disabled, retired, or deceased workers until they turn age 18 (or 19 if they are still in high school). It is important to know that you have to request Social Security benefits in person at a Social Security office.

Medicare: Medicare starts at age 65. If you started Social Security prior to age 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare at age 65. If you are not collecting Social Security, you

must go to a Social Security office three months prior to age 65 and enroll in Medicare. If you are still working and have group health plan coverage, you don't have to enroll until eight months after the termination of the group health plan coverage. If you wait longer, you will incur severe penalties.

Tricare for Life: Tricare for Life is basically a Medicare Supplement. You must apply for Tricare for Life. To receive benefits, you must be enrolled in Medicare.

Pharmacy Benefits: Prescriptions are free at military bases, available for a co-pay of either \$3 or \$9 for a three-month supply by mail order, or available for a co-pay of either \$3 or \$9 for a 30-day supply from a local pharmacy. There is no reason for a military retiree or surviving spouse to enroll in Medicare Part D.

Burial Benefits: Retirees, spouses, and their disabled children are eligible for burial in a National Cemetery at no cost. It is important to realize that the military member doesn't have to die first. The funeral homes can make the required arrangements.

These are the basic retirement benefits. I haven't included disability or survivor benefits.

Please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns at 480 368-1427.

Auxiliary Corner

by Kathy Upchurch, Auxiliary Liaison

I have been encouraged to continue Bingo at the State Veterans Home May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4 and September 1. Please let me know if you can volunteer on the dates listed. Be at the Veterans Home, Third Street (Herrera Way) and E. Indian School Road by 2 p.m. to sign in. Bingo is 2:15 to 3:15.

The chapter will be looking for a new Auxiliary Liaison come September. Please let President John Ady know if you are interested. Thank you for helping at Bingo and coming to luncheons. It has been great to get to know more of you.

I will continue to help with Bingo. However, I am letting go of all my offices for two years. Why? Tired. I've been on the national level for Gold Star Wives for eight years. It is just time to step back for a while and be a member.



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

State Passes Veteran-Related Bills

The First Regular Session of the 50th Arizona Legislature adjourned on April 20 having passed 14 bills affecting our currently serving, veterans, their families and survivors. Among the provisions of those bills are the following:

- **Protects the custody rights** of a military person deployed and prevents the court from issuing a child custody order until 90 days after the deployment ends.
- **Exempts spouses** and un-emancipated minors from being disqualified from employment benefits if they are changing locations with a member of the Armed Forces under orders.
- **Establishes** Arizona veteran supportive campuses, among other things, granting status to schools that provide peer mentoring and peer support programs for student veterans.
- **Requires a study** to examine awarding state contracts to veteran-owned businesses.
- **Makes changes** to the Military Family Relief Fund to extend the fund for five years and to allow a two-thirds vote of the overseeing committee instead of the entire committee to approve grants up to \$20,000.
- **Provides a process** for a veteran who is 100% disabled to receive international symbol of access special plates.
- **Allows certain licenses** of a person licensed in another state and married to an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces transferring to Arizona to be issued without an Arizona examination.
- **Grants in-state tuition** to honorably discharged veterans who demonstrate they will obtain Arizona residency.
- **Creates a Women Veteran's** special license plate with \$17 of the \$25 fee going to a special sub account in the Veteran Donation Fund earmarked for homeless women veterans.

Federal Budget Issues

The work of the federal legislature continues to be a work in progress. As *The Sentinel* goes

to press, the Congress is enjoying a two-week Easter recess. When the lawmakers return in May, the next imminent hurdle to cross is the current legal debt limit set at \$14.3 trillion. The Administration estimates that that limit will be reached in early July. Experts assert that busting the ceiling would result in default on U.S. government bonds and another impending economic disaster.

Assuming that Congress can come to grips with that one, the next issue will be getting back to the FY2012 budget. Recalling that the FY2011 Appropriations Bill was not passed until-mid April of this year, almost seven months late, prospects for timely resolution of the FY2012 bill appear to be dim at best. We currently have on the table:

- **The Deficit Commission Report** of December 2010, containing significant justification of a pending crisis and a proposal to decrease the deficit by about \$4 trillion.
- **The President's Annual** FY2012 Budget Request (along with the corresponding Defense Authorization Bill language) submitted on time in mid-February, containing very little in deficit reduction proposals.
- **The President's speech** of April 15, outlining his new proposal for reducing the deficit by about \$4 trillion more or less.
- **The FY2012 House Budget Bill** passed on time on April 15, proposing similar savings but with vastly different details.

We await the corresponding Senate Budget Bill. Information indicates it will be similar in size and again different in details, being strongly influenced by the "gang of six", a bipartisan group with links back to the Deficit Commission committee. Polls of the population indicate strong support for getting the deficit under control and little agreement on how it should be done.

With major national elections looming in 2012 it is difficult to project a path to a consensus that will get the FY2012 Appropriations Bill approved any faster than the FY2011 Appropriations Bill got approved. As MOAA prepares for Storming the Hill next year, we may once again be wondering if a government shutdown would leave anybody in Washington left to talk to as it was this year.

Continued on Page 7.

Legislative Update

Continued from Previous Page

As our chapter "goes dark" over the summer months, MOAA national will be fully engaged in Washington. There is much to do, and little current insight as to how it will develop. Please stay alert for MOAA requests for e-mail and tear out post card grassroots support on individual issues as they arise. It is through this support that we can achieve our "One Powerful Voice" in protecting our collective interests from being overwhelmed.

May Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: May 21, 2011
Note Earlier Start Time:
10:30 a.m. Social Hour
11:30 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
 Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$20 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: Presentation of scholarships to outstanding high school JROTC students.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 19. Cancellations need to be received the same day to receive your money back. Use the reservation form below.

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*The DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/mop.cfm.

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CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.**

General Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ **[a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]**

Name of Donor : _____ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ___ NO ___

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (**\$20.00 per person**) for **May 21, 2011**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **May 19, 2011**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050; 480-948-3609; e-mail wroscher@cox.net**

Military Observances in the Coming Months

This is the last edition of *The Sentinel* until September. Enjoy your summer and don't forget to mark these observances:

May 21, Armed Forces Day.

June 14, Flag Day and the U.S. Army's 236th birthday.

June 25, 1950, Korean War begins.

August 4, U.S. Coast Guard's 221st birthday.

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2011 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: www.azchaptermoaa.org

We are still collecting old cell phones for Cell Phones for Soldiers. Bring yours to the May luncheon.

**Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
13819 N. 51st Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254**



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