



Minutes of the October 2011 Board of Directors' Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA



Call to Order: President John Ady called the meeting to order at 1030 hours, Thursday, October 6, 2011, at the State Veterans Home at 4141 N. S. Herrera Way (North Third Street), in Phoenix with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: John Ady, Nancy Burt, Dan Conway, Jim Cullison, Rance Farrell, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Ron Perkins and Bill Roscher.

Minutes: The previous Minutes of the last Board of Directors' meeting (September) were approved.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Roscher summarized the chapter's accounts: General Fund \$9,873.35 plus \$50 Petty Cash, Scholarship Fund \$10,465.14 for a total of \$20,388.49.

Auxiliary & Spouses: No one has stepped forward to replace Kathy Upchurch as Auxiliary Chair. Dan Conway noted that getting Auxiliary member involvement is a problem nationally. He said the Tucson Chapter Auxiliary does more, but Tucson is a smaller, closer-knit community whereas the Metro Phoenix community is more spread out and not as close socially. Marie Fredricks reminded that all the Auxiliary members had been contacted previously and had shown no interest in suggested activities. National MOAA is considering giving Auxiliary members a vote on chapter affairs, but it would only apply to officer elections and bylaw changes in our chapter, so it's questionable what effect it would have. It also was noted that some Auxiliary members are second spouses and aren't closely attuned to military life.

Legislative Affairs: Gary Fredricks reported there is nothing new on the national level. Congress passed an interim spending bill to keep the government running until November 18. The Super Committee is to present its recommendations for spending cuts by November 23. He said he's seen nothing specific proposed. Nancy Burt asked how many MOAA-provided letters have been received by Sen. John Kyl, a Super Committee member. Gary said he didn't know a number, but all of them help. He said the State Department of Veterans Services is undergoing its periodic sunset audit. A series of reports have come out, including one on the State Veterans Home and one on the Fiduciary Department. Gary further reported that the new Veterans Home in Tucson is finished and will have a grand opening on Veterans Day. The next wish list includes a Veterans Cemetery in Tucson, a Veterans Home in Sierra Vista, and a cemetery and home in each of Yuma, Kingman and Flagstaff. He said funding is an issue.

Membership & Recruiting: Current membership stands at 170 regular members and 42 Auxiliary members for a total of 212. Ron Perkins reported that membership has increased by about 20 since the first of the year, about half recruited through the National Guard Conference and the Gold Bar Program. Ron noted that many of the Guard recruits don't renew. John Ady suggested highlighting Guard and Reserve members at a luncheon to encourage them to attend. Gregg Maxon suggested providing something tangible, such as a copy of the Army Officers Guide, to Gold Bar recruits, which could help build a relationship. Greg will check into the cost, after which the board will consider that option. Ron Perkins said the National Guard's OCS Commanding Officer sent a list of commissioning candidates that was incorrect. Dan Conway has sent letters to National members living in our area who have not joined a local chapter. Several board members can now begin calling the National members to encourage them to join our chapter.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway said five persons have signed up for the Personal Affairs workshop scheduled for October 22. Information on the workshop can be found in the October *Sentinel*, and a sign-up sheet will be available at the October 15 picnic. Dan said some members who attended the last workshop have since died and had their personal affairs in order with the help of guidance from the workshop. He said the upcoming workshop will have three parts: a workbook to be filled out; a presentation on wills and trusts by attorney and former chapter President Norm Miller, and a presentation by a representative from the Arizona Attorney General's Office on scams aimed at senior citizens and living wills.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks reported the October 15 picnic is all set for the Stillman Ramada at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Nineteen members had signed up to date, and the ESGR estimates

about 20 employers and employees will attend. Marie reminded everyone that the November luncheon will be held on November 12, the second Saturday of the month, instead of the third Saturday. The Dickens Carolers have been booked for the December luncheon, and the Chinese Auction will be held again, with board members providing gifts for the auction.

Programs: Chuck Schluter is working at scheduling a speaker from National MOAA for the first quarter.

Newsletter: Jim Cullison said printing the October newsletter was delayed because of equipment problems at the printer. He said he would send October picnic flyers and registration instructions to those who receive the newsletter only by mail, which includes 42 members.

Dan Conway noted that newsletter printing and postage expenses consumed most of the chapter's general funds in the past, but with more members now receiving the publication electronically instead of by U.S. mail, those costs have gone down considerably. He said we shouldn't accumulate a large balance and should seek opportunities to donate to worthy charities. Some discussion followed indicating there are opportunities coming but that we should not donate just for the sake of donating. Gregg Maxon said there would be no problem with the IRS as long as we have a donation plan and don't accumulate a vast amount of money. He said the board could establish a pro forma budget to show the plan.

Old Business:

Scholarship Program & Bylaws: Rob Welch was unable to attend the meeting, so action on the proposed scholarship bylaws was tabled until the next meeting. Bill Roscher said he has notified the Arizona Corporation Commission with names of the Scholarship Fund officer.

Laptop Computer for the Chapter: Ron Perkins reported that Rance Farell donated a laptop he no longer needed, saving the chapter the expense of purchasing one. The board had previously allotted \$650 for Ron to research and purchase a laptop. Instead, Ron only had to spend \$80 for a PowerPoint program to install on the laptop. Ron suggested we could use the laptop to run photos of chapter activities on a continuous roll during luncheon social hours. John Ady said it also could manage a photo inventory for the chapter history.

Meritorious Service Awards: MSA Review Committee Chairman Jim Cullison presented a report with recommendations on MSAs for 2011. Chapter Operating Instructions allow the committee to recommend up to 10 names for awards. The names submitted were: Dan Conway, Beth Cullison, Pat Dale, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Ron Perkins, Chuck Schluter, Bill Roscher, Terry Tassin and Rob Welch. Others nominated were Jim Cullison and Paul Schnur. President John Ady had declined a nomination beforehand. There was discussion that some selectees felt others were more deserving. Ron Green moved that the board allow 11 recipients this year, with Jim Cullison being the 11th. Bill Roscher seconded. Dan Conway said the board should not go against Chapter OIs. The motion passed. The OIs allow the chapter president to make an additional selection, and John Ady said he would announce his selection soon.

Chapter Funds for Homeless Vets Stand Down in February 2012: Ron Perkins distributed a report showing the coalition that coordinates the Stand Down uses most funds for services and operating expenses, with 12% for administration. Discussion followed that supported making a donation to offset event costs. Ron Perkins moved and Dan Conway seconded a motion to contribute \$500 to the event. The motion passed unanimously.

Greeters for Upcoming Meetings: Ron and Betty Perkins will greet in October, John and Sharon Ady in November, and Nancy Burt in December. Nancy will ask another member to join her as a greeter.

Chapter Secretary: There have been no volunteers to accept the Chapter Secretary position for 2012. The board agreed the best approach is to contact potential candidates personally.

Fall Golf Outing: Pat Dale needs golfers for the November 12 scholarship fundraiser. The board called on members to let friends know about the tournament and ask them to participate.

New Business

Armed Forces Career Officers Day: Rance Farrell reported that 200 high school students from across the state attended the luncheon and program last year, which included representatives from colleges and military schools from around the country with information on how to become an officer. The chapter provided \$200 last year for a table. Rance said this year's planners hope to have a female Coast Guard officer and a war veteran as speakers at the November 22 luncheon. Bill Roscher moved and Ron Perkins seconded a motion to provide \$200 this year for a table to include eight students and two chapter members.

Arizona Council of Chapters Fall Meeting: The meeting date has been changed to November 3, same day as our chapter board meeting. John Ady will attend the Council meeting as our chapter representative. First Vice President Gregg Maxon or Second Vice President Jim Cullison will conduct the board meeting.

Good of the Order, Roundtable:

Ron Perkins said MOAA staff is being asked whether our chapter can get credit for the phones we collect for Cell Phones for Soldiers. Only about 30 chapters participate in the MOAA program. Our chapter goes through Messinger Mortuary because that business supports our scholarship fund. The board reminded members to ask friends and relatives for their old phones for the program.

Ron Green invited members to a Veterans Appreciation program at 5:30 p.m. November 13 at Desert Foothills Lutheran Church, on Scottsdale Road near Dixileta. The program will include a Korean War POW who, at age 17, was the last survivor in a fight to hold a hill "at all costs." Organizers also are hoping to have Art Sloan, one of the Stand Down organizers, attend. If that happens, Ron suggested our chapter could present our \$500 donation to him at that time.

Gary Fredricks reminded that the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame induction will take place October 28, with 380 persons signed up for the luncheon and induction so far. Chapter members Gregg Maxon and Rance Farrell will be inducted this year.

Dan Conway noted that both he and Ron Green "dodged a bullet" last month. Ron and his wife were attending the Reno Air Show and were dangerously close to the grandstand area where a restored P-51 crashed, killing several people and injuring many. Dan survived a serious case of blood clots in his lungs, where there were no symptoms except shortness of breath. He shared those examples to stress the importance of having our personal affairs in order, urging members to sign up for the October 22 Personal Affairs Workshop because, "we are all on borrowed time."

Next Chapter Meeting: Saturday, 15 October 2011

Next BOD Meeting: Thursday, 3 November 2011

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1211 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Cullison for Beth Cullison, Secretary