



A picnic luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on October 15, 2011, at the McCormick/Stillman RR Park. 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 began with introductions. Total people present: 48; 31 member/spouses, 17 guests.

Minutes: Dispensed with reading minutes from the prior meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Beth Cullison read Treasurer Bill Roscher's report from this month's board meeting: General Fund \$9,873.35 plus \$50 Petty Cash, Scholarship Fund \$10,465.14 for a total of \$20,388.49.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks reiterated the November luncheon meeting will be held a week earlier on Saturday, November 12. John Ady thanked Marie for all her hard work coordinating meeting arrangements and for today's picnic luncheon catered by Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que.

Auxiliary & Wives Activities: Beth Cullison indicated we continue to host bingo at the Veterans Home the first Thursday of every month. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Beth on 602-482-3838. It's a very rewarding experience and truly appreciated by the veterans.

Legislative Affairs: Gary Fredricks reported the Super Committee recommendations to cut U.S. spending are due November 23. The recommendations could have direct impacts on active and retired military. Congress has until December 23 to vote on the Super Committee's proposal. Gary also reminded of the upcoming mandated cuts in TRICARE doctor payments unless action is taken to prevent them. He once again urged all members to send Congress the MOAA prepared letters available on the National MOAA website. MOAA has 92 paid staff members in Washington, D.C., with 11 lobbyists. For the fifth year in a row, *The Hill* congressional newspaper named MOAA the top lobbyist in the country.

Membership: Ron Perkins indicated National MOAA provided a list of potential chapter members that live in our area. Dan Conway mailed a letter to each of the potential members and board member volunteers are asked to make follow-up telephone calls to invite them to a chapter luncheon meeting. Our chapter currently has 215 members in good standing.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway invited members to attend a Personal Affairs Workshop next Saturday, October 22, at the Scottsdale Senior Center, 10440 East Via Linda, Scottsdale. Dan said the workshop will cover estate planning including wills & trusts, a presentation from the state attorney general's office focusing on senior citizen scams, forms for establishing a living will, and instruction on completing the "book". Shari Clark provided a positive testimonial based on her attendance at a previous workshop. Contact Dan at 480-368-1427 to register for the workshop.

Programs: Chuck Schluter continues to plan great programs and schedule interesting speakers. The *Meritorious Service Awards* will be presented at the November meeting. The December meeting is always fun with the *Dickens Carolers* and lots of raffle gifts. Colonel Lee Lange, MOAA VP Chapter Affairs, is scheduled as the keynote speaker for our January 2012 meeting.

Secretary: Beth Cullison was happy to introduce Carol Winkler who accepted the nomination for secretary in 2012 as Beth will be stepping down at the end of her term.

Ron Worthington: John Ady expressed sorrow at Ron Worthington's passing. Ron was an active member of our chapter, previously serving as Vice President and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. He will be missed. All members were encouraged to attend his funeral Sunday, October 16.

Golf Tournament: Pat Dale shared details of the upcoming golf outing, November 10 at the Starfire Golf Club in Scottsdale. This is the major fund raising event for our scholarship fund. All are encouraged to provide support through golfing with a foursome, lunch, and/or sponsoring a tee for only \$25. Details including entry and sponsor forms are provided in *The Sentinel*.

Chapter Polo Shirts: Rob Welch modeled the new chapter polo shirt displaying our chapter logo. Rob is taking orders now and will be placing the group order with Antigua in mid-November. You may order yours through Rob for \$25 with any excess monies going to the scholarship fund. Rob can be reached at 623-533-3704.

U.S. Navy: John Ady announced the Navy's 236th birthday founded October 13, 1775.

AZ Veterans Hall of Fame: Two chapter members, Brigadier General Gregg Maxon and Colonel Rance Farrell, will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame October 28. John Ady encouraged all members to attend the annual dinner for inductees.

Chapter Donations: John Ady said the Board voted to support the annual homeless veterans StandDown at the state fairgrounds with a \$500 contribution. The StandDown provides a variety of services to homeless veterans; a growing percentage are female homeless vets. A donation of \$200 was also agreed upon for the annual armed forces career day program and luncheon held at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR): Chuck Schluter has been involved in ESGR for many years. Scott Essex, ESGR, could not be with us as he was conducting a yellow ribbon affair for returning troops. Chuck gave a brief overview of ESGR and talked about the service of the Guard and Reserve as critical to the Department of Defense and to our Freedom. As Chuck explained, these great patriots "walk among us". Employers were selected to receive an ESGR award to recognize employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements at a personal or corporate level for supporting Guard and Reserve employees. Almost 900 Arizona employers were nominated by their Guardsman or Reservist for recognition awards during the last fiscal year alone. Chuck Schluter presented the following awards with Ron Perkins and John Ady:

Company Patriot Award – McKesson Pharmaceutical; accepted on behalf of McKesson by Mr. Scott Conlan, Warehouse Supervisor, nominated by SPC James Ndungu, AZ ARNG.

Patriot Award – Ms. Mary Schneider, Human Resource Coordinator, McKesson Pharmaceutical, nominated by SPC James Ndungu, AZ ARNG.

Patriot Award – Mr. Ruben Vital, Distribution Center Manager, McKesson Pharmaceutical, nominated by CPT Jerry Cole, AZ ARNG, currently deployed.

Patriot Award – Ms. Ananda Roberts, President for nFocus Solutions, nominated by PO1 Matthew Lightfoot, USNR.

Patriot Award – Ms. Betty Lou Evanson, Human Resource Manager, nFocus Solutions, nominated by PO1 Matthew Lightfoot, USNR.

Patriot Award – Brian Sill, Honeywell Aerospace, nominated by CW3 John Zdanis, USAR. Mike Madsen, President of Defense and Space Honeywell Aerospace, said a few words about the significance of the award and the importance of supporting our military.

Patriot Award – Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Superintendent Glendale Union High School District 205, nominated by SSG Michael Varela, USAR.

Patriot Award – Mr. & Mrs. Tom Vigilante, VSS Security Services, nominated by SSG Anthony Rumore, AZ ARNG.

Patriot Award – Mr. Rich Farrell, Manager Desert Schools Federal Credit Union, employer of Melissa Crowe, spouse of Senior Master Sergeant John Crowe, USAFR.

Patriot Award – Mr. Larry Volkmar, CEO Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, nominated by LtCol Deborah Lehker, USAFR.

Above and Beyond Award – McKesson Military Resource Group, West Region, nominated by the Arizona ESGR Office. The award was accepted by the entire McKesson team present.

In closing, Chuck Schluter thanked the Military Officers Association of America, Arizona Chapter for their continued exceptional support in hosting today's ESGR recognition luncheon. He thanked everyone in attendance for sharing the afternoon with these great Arizona Employers and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Arizona Office.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$144; three prizes were awarded: one \$12, one \$25, and one \$35 for a total of \$72 awarded.

Closing: John Ady congratulated all ESGR award winners along with thanks to Chuck for an excellent program. He also thanked Marie Fredricks for coordinating the food and table set up. Our next board meeting is November 3rd and all are invited to attend.

Adjournment: 1330 hours

Respectfully submitted:

Beth Cullison, Secretary