



THE ARIZONA CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
Arizona's First Chapter



Minutes of the March 16, 2013 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale. President Rob Welch called the meeting to order at 1155 hours and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation.

Members Present: President Rob Welch welcomed all present and all guests were recognized with a brief personal introduction. The total attendance was 51.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the current figures to be: General Fund \$10578.62; Scholarship Fund \$15754.85; Cash Exchange \$50.00 for a Grand Total of \$26383.47.

Legislative Report: Gary Fredricks reports that things are in pretty good shape "considering". On March 27 the continuing resolution under which the federal government is currently operating will expire; it looks like an extension will be granted until the September fiscal year ends with no government shutdown. It appears there will be no appropriation bill this year. April 12th will be the annual Storming of the Hill; since there is no budget, it leaves the DOD general issues in limbo. Gary will be attending for the 7th year and will have a report at the April meeting. At the state level the Senate has passed SB 1287 raising the current military retirement/pension AZ state income tax exemption from \$2500.00 to \$5000.00; the bill is now stuck in the House, so please write to your representatives and ask that it be put on the 2013 agenda. Please see Gary's Legislative Update in *The Sentinel* for additional information.

Arrangements: Arlene Day is requesting suggestions from members for a summer venue. Current ideas are a Diamondback baseball game on Veteran's Appreciation Day (5th of July) and a return to the Pizza/Pipe Organ restaurant, or possibly both. If you have an idea, pass it along.

JROTC Awards: Terry Tassin reports that he now has all 17 of our schools covered by chapter members for award night JROTC presentations. For the first time an Auxiliary member will be presenting; Kathy Upchurch will present an award at Glendale High School. Thanks for stepping up, Kathy.



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JROTC Scholarship: So far we have received one application for our JROTC Scholarship program. At least two more are being mailed on Monday. The Scholarship Committee will present their recommendations at the April Board meeting.

AZ StandDown: The Arizona StandDown was held this past week. Please email Rob Welch at president@azmoaa.org with your volunteer hours. So far only three chapter members who worked have sent in their hours.

Board Vacancy: We still have a vacancy for a Chapter Chaplain. Please contact Rob either by phone or email should you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering for this position.

Water for Homeless Veterans: Ron Green continues to deliver water to our homeless veteran shelter in Phoenix. He has also talked to his church and they have agreed to contribute again this year. Ron is also working on getting the Sheppard of the Hills Lutheran Church to join in contributing this year. I hope you all noted the donation box that we place on the table up front. If you can spare a buck today, and we all put just one dollar in the box, the \$50 will allow Ron to purchase 14 cases of water for our homeless veterans.

National Memorial Cemetery: Our chapter is considering a donation to the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road in North Phoenix. Two options are being considered. The first is a solar powered golf cart. Should this prove too costly, the second option is to purchase several heat dissipating benches to replace those that currently are too hot to sit on in our Arizona summer.

Golf Tournaments: Two important Golf Tournaments raising monies for veterans and high school seniors are coming up. The first is the AUSA tournament being held on Friday, the 29th of March, at Falcon Dunes Golf Club, Luke AFB. The second is our own tournament being held on Thursday, the 18th of April, at Starfire Golf Club in Scottsdale. Chairman Pat Dale has worked hard again this year to get sponsors and supporters to make your \$70.00 investment go a long way toward a fun day and as well as a great opportunity to support the Chapter Scholarship Fund! Please make every effort to support both these worthwhile fund raisers.



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Cell Phones for Soldiers: Remember to donate your old cell phones and/or cellular devices to provide phone calling cards for our service men and women. You may bring your phones to any luncheon meeting; there will be a collection box near the dais.

Welcome to the Board: Our chapter has a new Board Director, Col Dave Fleming, USAF retired. As many of you have already met Dave, I will dispense with his lengthy bio. He'll have an opportunity to tell you a little about himself in September when he is our Spotlight Speaker. Welcome aboard, Dave.

PIO: Our chapter now has a Public Information Officer. Former Navy LCDR Mark Day has volunteered to serve as our PIO, or as the Navy calls them, Public Affairs Officer. Mark served in many important PAO assignments during his time in the Navy, including being the PAO for the Chief of Naval Operations. Mark's extensive background in public relations will help promote our Chapter, making it more visible within our home communities. Welcome aboard, Mark.

Princess Cruise Veteran Credit: For those of you who like to take cruises, Princess Cruises has instituted an onboard credit for military active duty or veterans. Amount is \$50.00 - \$200.00 per cabin based on duration of cruise. Remember to ask your booking agent or Princess for this credit.

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Ron Perkins introduced the today's speaker, Joey Strickland, Director, AZ Dept. of Veterans' Services.

Speaker: Director Strickland, an American Indian of Choctaw-Hispanic descent, was appointed to head the AZ Dept. of Veterans' Services in July 2008. Under his guidance and leadership, the AZ Veterans' Dept. is in good shape while continuing to improve its support and outreach to local veterans and their families. The #1 issue being faced at the moment is finding immediate employment for returning veterans; allowing for a continued "sense of mission". Promoting college education and working to lower dropout rates; funding state home/care/rehab facilities; providing more state allocated cemetery space are all currently being addressed. The AZ Legislature has also voted to extend until 2018 the Military Family Relief Fund, the only one in the nation, to support the immediate needs of all AZ military service members and their families.

For his continued devotion and leadership in service to our nation's veterans, Director Strickland was awarded the "Iron Mike" award by NASDVA in Washington DC; selected



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as a White House “Champion for Change” in May 2012; and appointed by VA Secretary Shinseki to the National Committee for Homeless Veterans.

For more detailed information on Director Strickland and his service you may access azdvs.gov.

Gift: President Rob Welch presented Director Strickland with a gift of appreciation for his time and informative presentation.

Member's Spotlight: Captain Dan Conway, USCG, Retired, resplendent in his BARQUE EAGLE sweatshirt, was this month's Spotlight speaker. Dan spoke of his time at the U S Coast Guard Academy and his days learning and living aboard the EAGLE - a wonderful (but not fun) experience. Thanks to Dan for speaking up for the USCG!!

Monthly Luncheon Drawing: This month's winner of a complimentary breakfast at the April Chapter meeting was Ed Balaban.

50/50 Raffle: \$75.00 was awarded by Bill Roscher and \$80.00 was added to the Scholarship Fund.

Spotlight Speaker: CDR Terry Tassin will be the April Member Spotlight Speaker.

Reminder: Please note that our next meeting has been changed to a breakfast venue to accommodate McCormick Ranch. Social time will begin at 0800 followed by a plated breakfast at 0830. Your cost will be \$15 for breakfast.

The featured speaker will be Congressman David Schweikert of our own Arizona's 6th District. Congressman Schweikert will speak on timely issues being addressed by our Congress in Washington. Programs Chair COL John Ady advises to please book early as a large turnout is expected.

Adjournment: 1411

Respectfully submitted,

Leonore Kenefic Hoak, Secretary