



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive

Anthem, AZ 85068

MARCH 2013 CHARTERED 1956

56 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by Rob Welch



By Way of Introduction

So, who is this guy, Rob Welch, and what is he planning to do with our chapter?

The first is easy. Simply go to our chapter website www.azmoaa.org. Under the History/Awards menu tab, select Our Presidents. Then scroll down to the last president and click on me.

The second, well, I guess I better say a little more about that. Probably the most important thing I should say is that I will try hard not to mess up what our fine, hard-working and insightful past presidents have done to make our chapter what it is today, undoubtedly the most proactive MOAA chapter in our great State of Arizona.

2013 Goals

Our chapter needs to grow and attract younger members, so one of my goals is to build up our membership. I think a 5% net increase in our chapter membership is a realistic

and obtainable goal. This goal will be reached through membership drives, retention efforts, and putting into place a proactive program to make it easier for our members to renew.

We need to reach out to our community and let them know who we are, what we do, and when we do it. This goal will be reached by filling the newly created position of Public Information Officer. We will task that person to develop and implement a public information process that will insure that what we do, and when we do it, is highly visible to the people who live in our communities.

Lastly, we need to involve more members in the programs which help our community's veterans and youths wishing to make the military a career. By giving back to our community, we will become a stronger voice in our community. We

can only do this if more of our members become involved in chapter activities supporting our veterans, their families and youths wishing to follow in our footsteps.

New Director

Please welcome on board our newest Director, Colonel Dave Fleming, USAF (Ret).

Arizona StandDown

The StandDown this year will be held Friday through Sunday, March 8-10. As in the past, it will be held at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

Please consider volunteering to help fellow veterans who have been less fortunate than you and I. You can either sign up online at www.arizonastanddown.org/, or call me at (623) 533-3704 and I will sign you up. Make sure that you put down that you represent the Arizona Chapter MOAA.

My wife, Ronnie, and I have signed up to volunteer on Friday, the 8th. We hope you also will take advantage of this opportunity to help your fellow homeless veterans.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month.

Location: National Guard Distance Learning Center, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members are invited to attend.

Upcoming meetings:

- March 7
- April 4

Member Meetings/ Luncheons are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1200, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, unless noted otherwise.

Upcoming meetings:

- March 16
- April 20

In this Issue

Page 2

- Incredible Journey
- March Program
- Dues Renewal Form

Page 3

- Golf Tournament Info

Page 4

- Misadventure at Sea
- SBP/DIC Event
- Coming Attractions
- Patriot Program Invitation
- Taps

Page 5

- Personal Affairs

Page 6

- Legislative Update
- Donations

Page 7

- Web Address Change Reminder
- Meal Reservation & Donation Forms

Page 8

- Chapter Staff

Last Chance for Dues Renewal. Page 2

February Speaker

An Incredible and Unplanned Journey Across North America

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca might not be a familiar name in American homes, but he and a small group of followers made a significant contribution to American history.

His tale was described by Dr. Paul Schnur at February's luncheon.

de Vaca was in a party of 600 conquistadors who left Spain in 1527 and after stops in the Caribbean put ashore in Tampa Bay in 1528, claiming Florida for Spain.

The group leader, Panfilo de Narvaez, split the forces, some marching north by land and others on ship to Cuba for supplies. The ships were never seen again.

Eventually, the land force, down to 242 men, built five boats and set a course for Mexico. The ships became separated, and a hurricane swept some of the men to Galveston. Narvaez died there, and de Vaca took over leadership.

The group was enslaved by Indians for four years, but in 1536 the four remaining survivors, including de Vaca, escaped. They trudged for two more years across what is now Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, then into Mexico, where the bedraggled foursome finally met a band of surprised Spaniards and told of their ordeal.

They became heroes in Mexico City, and de Vaca told of a legendary seven cities of gold. He was encouraged to lead an expedition to find the cities, but he declined, eventually becoming governor of Paraguay. He died in 1556. Another survivor, a Moroccan slave named Estevan, did lead Coronado's search for the seven cities. He was killed by Indians during the search.



Dr. Paul Schnur holds a book on de Vaca's "Brutal Journey"

March Program

Veterans Services Director to Speak

COL Joey Strickland, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and one of the chapter's newest members, will be guest speaker, briefing us on a variety of topics affecting veterans. He is a Vietnam veteran and has extensive experience in veterans affairs at national and state levels.



!!!Last Call to Renew Chapter Membership for 2013!!!

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2013 yet, March 31 is the final deadline. Your dues support chapter programs and projects that help veterans in our community. Don't delay any longer. Fill out the form below and send it with your check to Treasurer Bill Roscher at the address shown.

If you're not sure if your dues are paid up, check the chapter roster at azmoaa.org and look at the column on the right. If the number in the column is 12, you owe dues for 2013.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

[Arizona Chapter 2013 Membership Renewal Form](#)

Member Full Name: _____

Membership Renewal: **\$20** Regular member __ , **\$10** Auxiliary member __ (surviving spouse)

Any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc:

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

Mail renewal form and check to:

AZ Chapter MOAA

C/O Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85050

Join Us for Golf at the Chapter Spring Tournament

Dust off your clubs and mark your calendar for Thursday, April 18, the date of the chapter's spring golf tournament. Then fill out the form below and send it to Pat Dale to secure your place in the field.

Have Fun & Do a Good Deed at the Same Time

This is a no-pressure event, so you don't have to be a scratch golfer or anything near that to win something, as there are many prizes and a 50/50 drawing for cash. The atmosphere is relaxed and geared toward fun.

Plus, and most important, the tournament is a major fundraiser for the chapter's Scholarship Fund, which helps send top level JROTC cadets from area high schools to college. So just by enjoying a morning of golf on a beautiful course, you are helping out that worthy cause. All mulligan money, half the 50/50 drawing and half of skin game collections, plus other donations and hole sponsor fees go to the Fund

Here Are the Details:

When: Thursday, April 18

Where: Starfire Golf Club, 11500 N. Hayden Rd., Scottsdale

How much: Tournament fee is \$70, which covers handouts, prizes (including a \$1,000 Hole-in-One prize on a short hole), cart and a BBQ lunch afterward, followed by prize awards.

What time: Check-in from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., with shotgun start at 8:00

Dress: collared shirts required, soft spikes on golf shoes, sneakers are permitted

Registration deadline: Entry form (below) with registration fee must be received by tournament chairman Pat Dale no later than April 11.

Don't Play Golf? You Can Still Help

Even if you're not a golfer or can't play that day, you can support the tournament and the Scholarship Fund by sponsoring a hole. With a **\$30** donation, your name will be prominently displayed at a tee as a sponsor and supporter of the fund. Just fill out and send the form below to Pat.

Non-Golfers, Join Us for Lunch! Don't golf? You can still join the group for lunch. Just send a check for **\$12** to Pat and note that it's for lunch.

Send checks, made out to **AZ Chapter MOAA**, for entry fees, hole sponsor and lunch to:

Pat Dale, Tournament Chairman

12633 E. Kalil Dr.

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Questions? Contact Pat at:

Phone: 480-661-5204, E-mail: golf@azmoaa.org

***Tell your friends.
They're welcome to play, too!!***

----- Clip and Mail with Check -----

Arizona Chapter MOAA Golf Tournament

HERE IS MY REGISTRATION SLIP AND ENTRY FEE.

Name: _____

Phone No: _____

E-mail Address: _____
(Please Print)

I would like to be partnered with: [names] _____

Check for \$ _____ included for _____ players (\$70 each).

I can't play, but I want to sponsor a hole
Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$30 per hole)

Member's Spotlight

Airmen Find Misadventure at Sea

Jim Cullison recounted the tale of two airmen who lost their way at sea and had to be rescued by some Chinese fishermen as the February Spotlight speaker.

Jim was one of 10 U.S. Air Force personnel at a Taiwanese Air Force radar site on the small island of Makung in 1967. Makung is about halfway between Taiwan and mainland China in the Taiwan Strait. Shortly after he arrived, the team's support base on Taiwan sent them a miniature sailboat —an oversized surfboard with a sail, as Jim called it—for their leisure recreation.



Jim tells a sea tale

But on its maiden voyage, two airmen on board lost control and started drifting out to sea. Jim and a fellow lieutenant convinced a couple of nearby fishermen to take their boat out for the rescue. They returned from the rescue to the hearty cheers of a group of Chinese villagers and beachgoers that had assembled.

The lesson learned from the escapade? "It reinforced in our minds the fact that we were airmen and not seamen," Jim said. "And for the rest of my yearlong tour on Makung, nobody ever took that sailboat out again."

MOAA Hosts SBP/DIC Event in D.C. *Affected Spouses, Members Invited*

In conjunction with its Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee, MOAA is sponsoring "Storming the Hill: the SBP/DIC Offset" on July 16-17 in Washington. The purpose is to educate legislators and their military assistants on the offset issue.

Surviving spouses, family members, retirees who participated in SBP and their spouses are invited to attend.

The event will include a dinner and pre-brief July 16, followed July 17 by a Congressional breakfast and face-to-face meetings with legislators and staffs. MOAA has blocked rooms at a nearby hotel for attendees.

For more information and registration go to www.moaa.org/amacstorming.

TAPS

We recently learned of the passing of two of our members:

Helen Derouin, Auxiliary

August 16, 1924—February 9, 2013

John Newell III, 1LT, USA

December 30, 1924—February 14, 2013

World War II Veteran

We extend heartfelt condolences to the families.

Coming Attractions

In addition to Joey Strickland in March, we have a great program lineup for the months that follow.

On April 20 we will shift to an 8 a.m. breakfast meeting at McCormick Ranch and are honored to welcome 6th District Congressman David Schweikert, who will discuss many complex issues before Congress. This is a one-time shift.

Our May 18 luncheon will feature our annual awarding of JROTC scholarships.

Veterans Invited to Patriotic Program

Akimel A-al Middle School in Ahwatukee invites veterans and family members to the school's 20th annual Patriot Day Celebration Friday, April 5. It begins at 9:30 a.m. in the school gymnasium, 2720 E. Liberty Lane, Phoenix.

The program will include posting of the colors by local honor guards, musical presentations by students and speeches. A highlight is called "A Grateful Nation Remembers," where students walk into the audience and present veterans with American flag pins. Afterward, a breakfast is served to visitors.

Akimel School was named a World War II Commemorative School in 1994, the first Arizona school so designated. "It is with great pride that we make this learning opportunity a part of our students' lives," said Principal Mike Deignan. "We believe it is important for them to be aware of the sacrifices made by our veterans to assure our freedom."

(Editor's note: I've attended this program in the past and highly recommend it. You'll feel good afterward. J.C.)



Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

Home Safety for the Elderly

I had started this article when I learned that one of my friends had fallen and broken his hip. He was in his neighbor's yard with his neighbor when he tripped on a sprinkler head. He was very fortunate that he was not alone and he didn't hit his head. It could have been much worse.

Each year, according to estimates by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), nearly 1 million people over age 65 are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with the products they live with and use everyday. The death rate from accidental injuries in the home is approximately three times greater for older people than for the younger population, persons under 65.

Slips and falls are the main cause of injury for older people in the home. The CPSC recommends the use of grab-bars and non-slip mats in the bathtub, handrails on both sides of the stairs, and slip-resistant carpets and rugs. I will concentrate on ways to avoid falls.

Shoes with rubber soles will prevent slips. They don't have to be sneakers. Even more stylish shoes are available with rubber soles, and it's well worth the effort to find them.

Shoes should be tightly tied to prevent tripping on a loose shoelace. I often wear moccasins with leather laces which have a tendency to loosen. What I do is tie the lace with the shoe in my lap which enables me to make a much tighter knot, and then use a shoe horn to put on the shoes. With that procedure, I completely avoid the loose lace problem.

Lighting is another area to consider. You shouldn't be walking down unlighted hallways. If you don't have a light switch at each end of the hall, it is best to walk down the hall and turn on the hall light before you turn off the living room or family room light. The last light to shut off should be the one on your bedside stand.

A dark garage can be a special hazard. If your garage door opener light or your car lights

are insufficient or turn off before you get to the garage door, just leave on the garage light while you are gone. The little bit of power you use will be much less expensive than a hospital stay.

The CPSC believes that many of injuries to elderly persons in their homes result from hazards that are easy to overlook, but also easy to fix. By spotting these hazards and taking some simple steps to correct them, many injuries might be prevented. Use this checklist to spot possible safety problems which may be present in your home. Keep this checklist as a reminder of safe practices, and use it periodically to re-check your home. The checklist is organized by areas in the home. However, there are some potential hazards that need to be checked in more than just one area of your home. The checklist is available at:

<http://www.nachi.org/elderlysafety.htm>

But what if you do fall? If you are not alone, you can get help. But what if you are alone? The first thing to consider is a Medical Alert System which you carry with you at all times; usually on a necklace. The ADT system costs \$65 for installation and then a monthly cost of \$29. It has a range of 300 feet, so it works when you are outside. The other thing to consider is a KNOX-BOX. It is a secure box located outside containing a key to your front door. The only agency having access to the box is the fire department. It costs about \$200 and there is no monthly fee. For information on the KNOX-BOX, call 602-262-6771 in Phoenix or 1-877-229-5042 in Scottsdale or Fountain Hills. If you live alone, these measures should be mandatory.

One of my friends was home alone and his artificial hip slipped out. In addition to the pain, he was unable to move. He did have access to his cell phone but couldn't reach his wife. He could have called 911 but didn't want the front door to be opened with a fireman's axe. So he laid there for two hours until his wife returned and almost had a heart attack when she walked in on him. He got the KNOX-BOX so that didn't happen again.

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

Daniel M. Conway



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Where We Stand

As February winds down and March begins, where do we stand on significant near-term national legislative issues? After taking a 10-day holiday during late February, the legislature returned to Washington greeted by the following:

- The President's FY2014 budget request, which kicks off the FY2014 budgeting and funding program and is required to be submitted to the Congress by mid-February, was "missing in action" with little insight as to when or if it would be submitted.
- "Sequestration," which is a \$1 trillion, 10-year across the board budget cut with defense taking about half of it, automatically takes effect March 1 unless Congress adopts an alternative. Anything can happen, but it looks like both the President and Congress are willing to let it happen, at least in the short run. For an excellent 12-minute video on the probable affects of "Sequestration", I refer you to an interview by MOAA Director of Government Affairs, Steve Strobridge, which you can easily access at MOAA's website, www.MOAA.org, and click on MOAA Video: Sequestration and You.
- On March 27, the continuing resolution under which the federal government now is operating expires. This is the funding authority for FY2013, and failure to take further action shuts down the government, including the ability to pay our troops. There seems to be some conjecture that Congress might use action on this, or possibly combined with some movement on FY2014 funding, as a vehicle to also try to mitigate the impact of Sequestration. We'll just have to wait and see.

In the meantime the blame game goes on.

Here in Arizona

At the state level, *The Arizona Republic* indicates that 1,145 bills have been introduced in the state legislature. The Arizona Department

of Veteran's Services (ADVS) tracks those that have some impact on the military or veterans, of which there were 32.

We are about half way through the normal legislative session, and the first major milestone which requires bills to have been heard in committee in order for bills to progress has passed. *The Arizona Republic* indicates about 500 of the 1,145 bills that were introduced were not heard and have now passed by the wayside. Of the 32 tracked by ADVS, it appears only about half remain on track. They include:

SB 1287, which would raise the current \$2,500 military retirement and pension exemption from Arizona income tax to \$5,000, has been given a "Do Pass Amendment" recommendation in Committee of the Whole Senate.

HB 2076, which would give credit for military education, training or experience in meeting the requirements of a license or certificate of registration issued in Arizona, has passed both of the assigned House committees.

HB 2391, which would exempt all of an honorably discharged veteran's retirement pay from state income tax, has apparently died in committee with no action taken.

HB 2484, which would provide veterans hiring preference, veteran-owned business incentives and a tax credit to participating employers, has passed the first of two committees assigned for action.

Donations to Scholarship Fund

\$100 for 4 Spring Training baseball tickets donated by Jeff Young and auctioned at the February luncheon

\$25 for a book of Ted De Grazia art and historical narrative donated by Dr. Paul Schnur and auctioned at the February luncheon

\$100 Transferred from the Chapter General Fund in memory of deceased members John Newell III and Helen Derouin

Phil Lowe \$200

John Nicodemus \$100

Gene Rafanelli \$20

Gary Fredricks \$20

Dan Germond \$29

Remember: Our website has a new, shorter and easier to remember and type web address. It is www.azmoaa.org. Please put the new website address in your favorites menu, as the previous address is no longer working..

March Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: March 16, 2013
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$22 Per Person



DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, vegetable medley, salad, bread & butter, lemon meringue pie, regular and decaf coffee, tea.

Please contact Arlene Day (arlenebday@gmail.com or [480-353-6400](tel:480-353-6400)) if you have any allergy or dietary restriction issues with the menu.

PROGRAM: Chapter member Joey Strickland, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, will update us on the Department's activities and veterans issues.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

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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 \$ _____ (**\$22.00 per person**) for **March 16, 2013**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **Received No Later Than: March 12, 2013**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.** wroscher@cox.net



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Military Officers Association of America
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