



THE ARIZONA CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

Arizona's First Chapter



Minutes of the September 21, 2013 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on Saturday, September 21, 2013, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale. President Rob Welch called the meeting to order at 1145 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 41.

Rob Welch made the following Announcements:

- Chapter members Ron Green & Gene Rafanelli will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2013, on October 25th. Rob asked members to let him know if they plan to attend ASAP so he can arrange for us to sit together.
- Our chapter again had three national first place communication award winners. Best Newsletter for Jim Cullison's work on The Sentinel. Best Recruiting Brochure for the efforts of Dan Conway, Terry Tassin & Rob Welch. Best Website for Rob Welch's work.
- The Arizona Chapter won its 10th consecutive Five Star Level of Excellence Award from MOAA. The award will be presented to our chapter at MOAA's national meeting in November. We will add it to our flag during our Christmas luncheon.
- Legislative Affairs has been split into two units, Federal with Gary Fredricks continuing as the chair, and State with Corey Harris as chair. This division will allow us to focus more on veterans issues which affect our state and our local veterans.
- New Chapter liaisons have been appointed to U.S. Congressional offices: John Ady as liaison to David Schweikert, Corey Harris as liaison to Ed Pastor
- A new Sentinel Editor has been appointed. Recently retired Navy Lieutenant Ed Balaban and is being groomed to replace Jim Cullison. Rob Welch has donated a laptop to the chapter with MS Publisher on it as Ed has a Mac, not a MS Operating system, and our newsletter templates will not work on a Mac O/S.



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- A New Recruiting Brochure has been designed and produced by Dave Fleming & Lee Lange. The brochure is a very professional product with a look toward the future, making it more appealing to our potential recruits.
- Several of our members attended the recent MOWW Massing of the Colors on Sunday, 8 Sep. Fifty colors from various organizations throughout the valley, including ours, were showcased during the ceremony. Secretary of the State Ken Bennett made remarks, followed by a very touching MIA memorial ceremony.
- State Fair Volunteers are needed to support the Arizona StandDown for Homeless Veterans. E-mail Rob if you are volunteering.
- The chapter made a \$500 donation to the Madison Street Veterans Association MANA House Women Veterans Wing. Articles in the Arizona Republic and USA Today highlighted the Women's Wing and the financial problems they are having due to sequestration cutbacks of promised federal funding.
- Toys For Tots. Again this year we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from members for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center for their Toys For Tots program at Christmas. All members are encouraged to bring at least one toy for donation to this worthy program. Each year, the 9-12 year-old age group is the most difficult to accommodate. Stuffed animals are not desired. Please bring your donations to the November luncheon meeting or December Christmas meeting.
- Frank Hoak advised that Mark Field, Editor of the newly formed AZ Veterans Magazine, has notified him that his article on Pearl Harbor will be featured in the October edition.
- The chapter is still accepting old cell phones in the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. If you have upgraded to a new phone, bring your old one to a meeting. The phones are wiped clean of personal information.
- Congratulations to the U.S. Air Force on the service's 46th birthday, September 17.
- The Board of Directors approved the 2014 Slate of Officers, which will be appearing in October's Sentinel. The membership will vote on the slate at our November luncheon meeting.



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Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the current status of chapter funds: General Fund \$10,645, Scholarship Fund \$13,014, Cash Exchange \$50 for a Grand Total of \$23,709.

Spotlight Speaker: Col Dave Fleming, USAF ret., described his experience on the military staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on 9/11 and the days that followed. The attack on the Twin Towers prompted a meeting of NATO ambassadors. The ambassadors invoked Article 5, the section of the treaty that stated an attack on one NATO ally was considered an attack on all. America had been attacked, so the NATO fleet of Airborne Warning and Control aircraft was dispatched to the U.S. to perform air surveillance over major U.S. cities and provide radar control to American fighter aircraft performing armed combat air patrol to prevent further attacks. Dave said the irony of the action was that NATO was formed to protect European allies from attack, but the first time Article 5 was invoked, it was to protect the U.S.

Guest Speaker: BG Mike Burke, USA ret., Director of Army Attack Rotorcraft Business Development for Boeing Military Aircraft in Mesa, gave an inspiring account of today's service members. He noted that all of our military members are volunteers, and they continue to volunteer despite multiple deployments against a brutal enemy in a complex, intense fighting environment. Despite the intensity of the combat, the Americans still perform humanitarian activities. BG Burke recounted an example where a U.S. unit assisted a small Afghan community and established a neighborhood watch, helped clean up the marketplace and provided supplies school supplies. He said they saw a problem and went out and solved it. He predicted that many of those in uniform today will run for political office in the years ahead and will solve problems in that role. He referred to our current military as "the new greatest generation."

50/50 Raffle: \$45 was added to the Scholarship Fund and \$45 was awarded to 3 members with the lucky raffle numbers (two \$20 winners and a \$5 winner).

Monthly Luncheon Drawing: John Vinson's name was drawn, and he will receive a free lunch at the October picnic.

Next Meeting: Saturday, October 19, 2013, will be our annual picnic at McCormick/Stillman Railroad Park. There will be no speakers other than a brief President's report. Food by Famous Dave's BBQ. Entertainment by country/western singer Dave Karl, who sounds a lot like Kenny Rogers. MOAA allocated \$500 to the chapter to cover meals for national members living in our territory who are not local members. They will be invited to the picnic with the prospect of joining our chapter. USAA provided the funding in its partnership with MOAA.



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President Welch encouraged members to consider stopping by the raffle table on their way out and contribute to our “Can You Spare A Buck” program to help purchase water for our homeless veterans. He noted that if everyone in the room drops in a dollar, we can buy over 10 cases of water for our homeless vets. Ron Green’s church is also contributing to this program, which Ron is running for us.

Adjournment: 1350 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Cullison for
Leonore Kenefic Hoak, Secretary