

President's Perspective

by Lee Lange



received its 13th consecutive 5-star award under MOAA's Levels of Excellence program.

scholarship program fund raiser at Paradise Bakery in Scottsdale. We had 55 chapter members and friends show up to purchase food items and make donations that netted approximately \$300 for our chapter fund.

During August over 30 chapter members and guests got together at Chase Field for the Diamondbacks versus the Dodgers, and we beat LA handily.

Scholarship Program Goal Set

Last April was the kick off of the chapter's new scholarship program. The first three \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to two Air Force cadets and one Navy midshipman from ASU's ROTC programs.

All of us at the meeting were very impressed with the outstanding quality of the recipients, who will go on to receive their commissions next year.

The importance of our scholarship program is that we are making a notable difference by contributing in a direct and meaningful way to a strong national defense.

Continued on page 2...

The 5-star banners will be presented at MOAA's annual meeting October 24-25 in Arlington, VA. Since the award was earned for chapter performance last year under the leadership of Jim Cullison, I asked him to make the trip to Virginia to accept the award. As in the past this recognition is really a reflection of the efforts of all of our chapter members working together.

Congratulations are in order for all hands.

Chapter Happenings

Again this year, the chapter participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the National Cemetery. Thanks to Jon Shawl, Bruce Kosaveach and Jim Paxton for joining me on the chapter color guard. More thanks are due to Ron Bright and Janet Stultz who placed our commemorative wreath at the wreath laying ceremony.

On June 16 many of you joined us for a

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a great summer with perhaps some time spent in a cooler place than Phoenix.

Although the chapter did not meet June-August, we did hold several events and received some great news about two of our members and chapter recognition from MOAA.

More Good News

In June we were notified that two chapter members, COL Rob Welch, USA Ret, and COL Jeanne Blaes, USA Ret, were selected for induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.



They will be inducted into the 2016 Class on October 28. Be sure to congratulate them the next time you see them.



In July we received a message from MOAA that the Arizona Chapter has

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month unless noted otherwise

Location: National Guard Regional Training Institute, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

- September 1
- October 6

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:

- September 17
- October 15

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Scholarship recipients send thanks to Arizona Chapter

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent by the three recipients of the chapter's ROTC scholarships presented last April.)

Dear AZ MOAA Chapter,

A few months ago the three of us were selected as recipients of a \$2,000 scholarship on behalf

President's Perspective...continued

Now we have to sustain the program going forward. To do that I am announcing the kick off of the 2016-2017 scholarship fundraising campaign for the Arizona Chapter, with a goal of raising \$10,000 over the next year.

We have set a significant but achievable goal. We will get there through several planned fundraising events, including our annual golf tournament organized by long time scholarship supporter, Pat Dale. Achieving this goal also depends on the generous donations of our chapter members. Remember that all donations are tax deductible. Together we can do this.

Our first event will take place on Tuesday, September 20, at Habit Burger Grill, 4575 E. Cactus Road. Be sure to print the attached flyer that came with this newsletter for details. The restaurant will donate a portion of the proceeds to our Scholarship Fund. Mark your calendars and help out our future military leaders. And bring your friends and family.

Each month we'll report progress towards our goal in *The Sentinel* and let you know how you can help. I'd like to announce our new Scholarship Committee Chairman, CAPT Jon Shawl, USN Ret, who will take over from Rob Welch. Many thanks to Rob for heading up the Scholarship Committee for a number of years and for his exceptional work in helping us put the new scholarship program in place

See You in September

Be sure to join us for our September 17 meeting at McCormick Ranch. The program will feature Army veteran Jennifer Eastman from the Phoenix Police Department telling the real story behind the 911 emergency network we depend on every day. More details and registration information are on Page 3.

of the AZ MOAA Chapter. We are writing to thank you for your generous scholarship. We are all extremely happy and appreciative of such a blessing. The burdens of work combined with school, ROTC and personal life make college a daunting task. Thanks to you we are all one step closer to graduating in rigorous degrees from Arizona State University.

Our financial burden has been lightened because of MOAA. We just want to express our gratitude to you and assure you that we will be working hard to excel in school and ROTC. It has inspired us to give back to the community and help others through the journey of life. As future officers and leaders in the military, we hope to help others achieve their academic goals just as you have helped us.

Your generosity truly makes a difference,

Sincerely,

Cadets Forrest Babbitt, Nicole Berg and
Midshipman Chance Callister
AFROTC Det 025 and NROTC, ASU

Donations to Chapter Scholarship Fund

Ron Bright \$80
Anonymous \$78
Pat Dale \$25
Jim Draper \$20

Friends of the Chapter

Karen Cooper \$50
Raymond Najar \$50
Richard McDaniels \$20



Chapter Color Guard

Lee Lange, Jon Shawl, Jim Paxton and Bruce Kosaveach carried the colors at the Chapter's annual participation in the Memorial Day Commemoration at the National Cemetery in North Phoenix.

Photo by Al Hague



Arizona Chapter MOAA
 September 17, 2016, Program
“Phoenix Police 9-1-1 Communications Bureau”
 Officer Jennifer Eastman

In 2015, the Phoenix Police Communications Bureau answered over 2.3 million incoming calls, which averages out to just below 6,400 calls per day. The centers answer emergency calls for service on 9-1-1 lines, as well as calls on the City of Phoenix Non-Emergency line, called Crime Stop, at (602) 262-6151. Officer Eastman has an enlightening presentation on the actions of this important Bureau that will benefit all in attendance.



Officer Jennifer Eastman has been with the Phoenix Police Department for over 17 years. She has held previous assignments in Patrol, serving as a Patrol Officer and a Community Action Officer. She also has been a coordinator for Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol and Block Watch programs at the citywide level. She was assigned as an officer in the Public Affairs Bureau for seven years and contributed greatly in enhancing the department's website and social media capabilities. Officer Eastman is currently assigned to the Community Relations Bureau where she focuses on Community Engagement and Outreach efforts. Officer Eastman coordinates the Citizens Police Academy, the "Behind the Badge", and the "Cop for a Day" programs. Prior to being hired by the City of Phoenix, Officer Eastman served in the United States Army and the Arizona Army National Guard. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Saturday September 17, 2016

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

REGISTRATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 13
 \$22 per person includes lunch. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA
 Send to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020
 Or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028 or charles.bitner@gmail.com

Summer Fun

Even though there were no regular chapter meetings during the summer, we did have two social events for members, spouses and guests.

More than 50 came to Paradise Bakery in Scottsdale June 16 for food and a scholarship fundraiser, which netted \$129 in shared proceeds from Paradise Bakery and \$200 in donations from attendees and friends.

The Arizona Diamondbacks beat the LA Dodgers 6-5 July 17 to the delight of 30+ members and guests who attended the game as a group.



Donna Bright, above left, and Susan Price got their fill and had a good time at the June 16 fundraiser at Paradise Bakery, as did Steve Glantz, below.



Sharon Ady and Judy Conway won D'Backs T-shirts, and Ron Perkins won a voucher for game tickets. The gifts were donated to the chapter by the Diamondbacks and awarded in a drawing for those present.



Bruce Kosaveach and Gary Fredricks stood, along with veterans throughout the stadium, as the Diamondbacks recognized their service between innings early in the game.



Chapter May Speaker

Frank Hoak Sheds Light On Life in North Korea

Chapter member Frank Hoak III has traveled to many countries around the globe, and one of his rarest destinations was the communist dictatorship of North Korea.

Frank spent 10 days in that enigmatic country last year and shared his experience with chapter members at our May luncheon as our featured speaker.



He described the detailed process for being allowed into the country and how his travel group was always escorted by a team of North Koreans. They were not allowed to go out on their

own, as their escort team assured they saw only what the North Koreans wanted them to see. At the end of each day, the escorts even reviewed the photos the travelers took with their cameras to delete any they determined were prohibited.

The indoctrination of the citizenry in the military culture and hatred toward America begins with children in grade school and continues into adulthood. Veneration of the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, is a requirement, and disrespect is not tolerated.

Frank got to see the USS Pueblo, the Navy ship that was seized by North Korea in 1968 and is now a military museum in that country. He also visited the Demilitarized Zone, the heavily armed dividing line between North and South Korea.

Importantly, he described the military threat North Korea poses to the United States and the entire world under Kim's unpredictable leadership.

In all, the presentation was important in depicting North Korea's dangerous nature.



Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange
Personal Affairs Officer

What is Space A?

The following is adapted from an article written by MOAA contributor Marc Acton.

Every day, DoD aircraft fly all over the world. When these planes aren't full, military personnel (and often their family members) can fill the empty seats. Usually these flights are free if they're within the U.S. Flights outside the country require a small tax. Most of the available seats are on flights run by the Air Force's Air Mobility Command that include destinations in dozens of countries.

Almost Everyone is Eligible

All active duty personnel can fly Space A, and usually their dependents can, too, even unaccompanied. This includes Guard and Reserve dependents in certain cases. Retirees who are eligible to receive retirement pay can fly and bring their family members with them. Reservists and Guard members who are on active-drilling status (not Individual Ready Reserve) can fly, too, when they're not on duty, but only to U.S. states or territories.

For documentation, you'll need identification (passports or visas if you're traveling overseas) and copies of leave orders, if applicable. Reservists, Guard members and retirees need extra documentation to prove their eligibility. Find the specific eligibility and documentation requirements on Air Mobility Command's website at www.amc.af.mil

Find a Flight

The biggest hurdle to Space-A travel is the scheduling. For security reasons, specific times and destinations of flights are not published more than 72 hours in advance of a flight. So while some locations do have "regular" destinations, Space-A passengers should be flexible, because flight schedules change often. Most major Air Force bases have passenger terminals, as do many Navy and a handful of Air National Guard bases.

Check out the full list of terminals, again at www.amc.af.mil. Most post their available flights on Facebook. If you can't find your terminal there, most terminals make their schedules available on recorded messages, or you can call the terminal directly. Only the individual terminal's 72-hour notices are reliable, and even those are subject to change without notice. The best way to make the most out of Space-A travel for leisure is to show up at a major passenger terminal that has lots of flights and go where the wind takes you.

Get a Seat

Once you know what terminal you will depart from, sign up with the terminal to get your name on "the list." You don't have to sign up for a specific day. Putting your name on the list tells the terminal you plan to travel with them. Do this as soon as you can, up to 60 days in advance of the dates you want to travel. Usually you can sign up online, but check with your terminal because each has its own rules.

Once a flight you'd like to take is announced, show up prior to the roll call time listed on the 72-hour notice and check in with the terminal personnel. You'll tell them which flight you'd like to take, and they'll ensure all your paperwork is correct.

If seats are available, they're given out based on the category of the travelers who want them. The basic rule is, the more necessary the reason for flying, the higher the category assigned to the passenger. Active duty servicemembers and their accompanying families traveling on emergency leave are Category 1, for example, while retirees, guard members and reservists are lowest priority.

Within each category, seats are given on a first-come, first-served basis. At the roll call, terminal personnel go down the list by category, filling seats based on who has checked in for the flight. If multiple travelers in one category are competing for a seat, the traveler who has been on the sign-up list the longest will get the seat. This is why signing up as close as you can to 60 days out is important. A passenger in the same category who has been on the list for 45 days will get a seat before a passenger who has been on the list for 35.

Be Ready for Anything

If you're traveling for fun, you're a low-category traveler. That means you should be prepared to wait to get what you want. It is not unusual for flights to be delayed or canceled. Don't make the mistake of assuming because a flight goes exactly where you want to go that you're going to get on it. If you have the luxury of coming back for the next week's flight, you're more likely to be successful. Even better, adjust your plans on the fly and pick a new destination to keep from wasting away in a terminal hoping your number will be called.

Have a Backup Plan

Fight the unpredictability of Space-A travel with a backup plan, especially for return flights. If you absolutely have to be somewhere at a certain time, you might want to consider other traveling options. But if you have the time and the desire to see whatever corner of the world makes itself available to you, Space A can be an incredibly cheap way to scratch the itch for adventure.



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange
Legislation Chairman

We Need to Pay Attention

I hope you have been reading the weekly MOAA Legislative Update via email and your *Washington Scene* in the MOAA *Military Officer* magazine. What's going on in Washington right now is nothing less than a steady erosion of benefits for all military members, past and present. And we are doing this while our troops are in the 15th year of combat operations in various parts of the world. To fight back, we have to be informed, and MOAA does a great job of pushing information to us.

At stake now are the House and Senate Defense Authorization Bills for 2017 – HR 4909 and S 2943 respectively. When the Congress recessed, the House and Senate were just starting work on their differences in the conference committee. Already Defense Secretary Carter has threatened a veto by the President over numerous provisions in the bills, putting a dark cloud over negotiations.

Visiting Our Legislators

Congress has been on summer recess since July 18 and returns to Washington September 6. Most U.S. senators and representatives are in their home districts to meet with constituents and conduct other business. MOAA's Legislative Liaison Program encourages chapters to assign members to maintain liaison with legislators in respective chapter areas. The Arizona Chapter has responsibility for Rep. Ruben Gallego and Rep. David Schweikert. During August John Ady visited Rep. Schweikert's Arizona office and I visited Rep. Gallego, using MOAA's talking points to urge support for MOAA's top issues in the Defense Bill.

What are the Top Issues?

Retain the 2.1 percent pay raise and +20K troops for the Army in the House-passed bill. This is the fourth straight year of reduced pay raise for the troops, and the Army is its lowest force levels since before WW II.

Drop the Senate-proposed housing allowance cuts (\$10,000-\$20,000 or more, annually, in some cases).

Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases in the Senate bill that would double out of pocket costs for retired members and families.

Make real progress toward eliminating the military "widow's tax" (SBP/DIC offset), not just extend the current Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance. Survivors still lose \$11,000 each year in SBP payments they should receive.

MOAA makes it clear that these aren't just about defending rice bowls. These are critical matters for sustaining retention and readiness - the core of our All Volunteer Force defense - over the long term.

One of the reasons MOAA has been successful on Capitol Hill is that we have members who are willing to contact their legislators and express their views on issues that are important to them. The grassroots support of our members has never been as important as it is now. All of us need to answer MOAA's requests to contact our legislators via email, letter or phone, using the information in the Legislative Update. If we sit on the sidelines now, we will not be able to complain much when benefits we depend on start to go away.

On to State Legislation

Planning is already underway on issues for the next session of the Arizona Legislature set to kick off early in 2017.

This year, the Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) and MOAA chapter and state council leaders will take on an effort to increase the amount of the military pension exemption for state taxes. It has been set at \$2,500 since the late 1980's and never adjusted for inflation or other factors.

Nationwide, 26 states exempt all military retired pay from state taxes. This is certainly our goal, but in the business of legislation, achieving incremental goals are more likely. Right now both groups are looking for a sponsor of a bill that would double the exemption to \$5,000 and maybe do more.

Stay tuned for more developments.



TAPS



We recently learned of the passing of one of our longtime members:

COL Park Shaw, USA (Ret.)

1923-2016

World War II Veteran

Member Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family.

Welcome Our New Members

Thomas D. Blain, LTC USA (Ret)
and Spouse Anita of Phoenix

James W. Paxton, Capt USMC (Frm)
and Spouse Suki of Phoenix

Trevis C. Bachmann, LT USN (Act)
and Spouse Christine of Scottsdale

Please meet and greet our new members.

September Luncheon

WHEN: September 17, 2016
11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social Hour
11:45, Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club,
Scottsdale

COST: \$22 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Salad, slow-roasted pot roast, garlic
mashed potatoes, cherry pie.

PROGRAM: Phoenix Police Officer Jennifer
Eastman will give us an inside look at the 911
Emergency Phone System operations.



Public Charity
Golf Tournament
The Wigwam

Third Annual Support Education and Employment for Vets (S.E.E.4Vets) Golf Tournament

*Proceeds from this event will benefit S.E.E4Vets,
an Arizona non-profit public charity
organization.*

Wigwam Resort
Patriot Course
Friday, November 18, 2016

Shot Gun 9:00 AM
Scramble
Long Drive
Closest to the Pin
Hole in One
Lunch & Program
Auction & Raffle Prizes
Golf and Lunch/Program -- \$100/player
or \$400/foursome
Lunch/Program Only -- \$35
(Tax deductible \$30/golfer)
Player & Sponsorship Registration Link
Available Friday, September 9

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: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com.**

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/RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve ___ meals for (name): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$22.00/person) for the September 2016 luncheon

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

Send check to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com**

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after September 13.
Cancellations after May 17 will be charged and not refunded.**

Chapter Wins Communication Awards

The Arizona Chapter earned two awards in MOAA's annual Communications Awards Program. The chapter website, azmoaa.org, won a 5 star award. *The Sentinel* newsletter earned 4 stars. Rob Welch is webmaster, and Jim Cullison is newsletter editor.

MOAA revamped the program this year to grant 5 and 4 stars to winners, similar to the Levels of Excellence program.

Cool Off at our October Picnic

We'll be gathering again next month for our annual picnic barbecue at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Mark October 15 on your calendar for a great catered meal and an afternoon of food, music and tales of Arizona.

Our special guest will be Marshall Trimble, official state historian, who surely knows more about Arizona than anyone else. Full details next month.

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2016 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org

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