



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

12122 N 110th Street

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

October 2018

CHARTERED 1956

61 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JANET LANGE

### President's Perspective

by Ron Bright



One of the delights of MOAA membership is the opportunity to meet, dine and socialize with other veteran officers of our country's military. The friendships made, the ability to foster young leaders and advocate for veteran issues are important. We also encourage others to join us in promoting a strong US defense. Because of our membership in MOAA and participation in our Chapter activities, our voice is magnified by tens of thousands. Our National and State political leaders are influenced by our solidarity and presence. We can get things done. These are good reasons to join MOAA and a MOAA chapter and your eligible friends just might appreciate an invitation by you to visit us.

#### Our October Picnic

October is the perfect time to invite a friend to our annual Picnic Luncheon. The casual barbecue, the grassy park surroundings and entertainment are perfect opportunities to welcome prospective new members. Invite a friend to

our October Picnic on October 27. Their meal is paid by the Chapter!

#### Semi-Annual Council Meeting

The next few weeks will be busy for our Board and officers. The Arizona Council of Chapters will meet on November 1 for the semi-annual meeting where a new slate of leaders will be elected for new two-year terms. Col Lee Lange will complete his term as Council Treasurer to accept Legislative Chair for the Council and he will be succeeded by Col Charlie Bitner as Treasurer. Charley will also continue as our Chapter Treasurer.

#### MOAA Annual Meeting

Our 5-Star Level of Excellence Award for 2017 will be presented at the MOAA Chairman's dinner held at the Arizona Grand Resort on **November 1**. Cost per person is \$65.00 and you must RSVP through the website at MOAA.org. Click on the top bar for "Events" then choose 2018 MOAA Meeting.

This is our fifteenth consecutive 5-Star Award and I am hoping our Arizona Chapter members will turn out with a large attendance. On **November 2**, MOAA will hold their Annual Meeting at the Arizona Grand Resort and all members are encouraged to attend. Again you must register for the Annual Meeting and Workshops through the MOAA.org website.

#### September Meeting

My sincere thanks To CDR Mike Rogers, COL John Ady, CAPT Jon Shawl, and CAPT Archie Kelly for stepping up in my absence and conducting the September Luncheon. Special thanks to LtCol Jim Cullison for bringing the flags to the meeting. Lee and Janet Lange greeted and welcomed new members. You can be assured my recovery has progressed

**Today is the final day you will be able to register and attend MOAA's Annual Meeting and the informational Workshops at the Grand Hotel in Tempe. You may register at : <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Events/Annual-Meetings/Detail/MOAA-s-2018-Annual-Meeting.aspx>**

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

**Board of Directors** meets at 1030 hours 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:**

- Oct 4
- Nov 8

**Member Meetings/ Luncheons** are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145, McCormick Ranch Golf Club unless noted otherwise. See Page 7

**Upcoming meetings:**

- Oct 27 Picnic
- Nov 17

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Annual MOAA  
 Arizona Chapter  
 BBQ/Picnic

11AM-2PM

Bring a  
 prospective  
 member





WESTERN MUSIC BY

**CIMARRON**  
 SIDEKICKS

McCormick-Stillman  
 Park  
 Indian Bend &  
 Scottsdale Roads  
 Stillman Ramada  
 map attached

REGISTRATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16th.  
 \$25 per person includes lunch. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter  
 MOAA or mail to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix,  
 AZ 85020. Phone: 602-943-0028. email: Charles.bitner@gmail.com

## COL Ross Poppenberger



### Yuma Proving Ground Performs Important Mission

COL Ross Poppenberger USA, Commander of the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), spoke to the chapter at September's meeting. An extensive background in Army acquisition helps him lead the Army's largest test center. YPG also has test facilities in Alaska, Panama and Hawaii. The mission of YPG is to conduct real world testing of equipment to make sure it performs as advertised by the manufacturer. Failures are analyzed by sophisticated test equipment and solutions devised to make the equipment better. YPG is a key part of a growing Yuma economy – YPG is largest single employer with 2400 employees. Included are 1300 contractors, 350 military members and 700 government civilians. The economic impact of YPG is \$450M annually.

Test ranges at YPG are the size of Rhode Island and include an area roughly 60 by 60 miles. Testing includes all Army vehicles and major weapons systems along with UAV's, air delivery systems and communications systems. Testing can be conducted for other services and countries. The test ranges are divided into an Air Combat side and a Ground Combat side. Testing of indirect fire systems is one of the most important missions at YPG. Weather is good virtually 365 days a year so testing is rarely shut down by weather. YPG owns the airspace over the center so it can be restricted when needed. Other missions include military dog training, special operations terminal controller school and high altitude/freefall parachute school. General Motors runs a test facility for its vehicles at YPG. There is also an Aerostat balloon based there for Border Patrol use in watching the border. COL Poppenberger says he is funded at one-third of his total requirements so he needs more industry partners, civilian and foreign business. Wild life conservation and community involvement are also important to what goes on at YPG. The biggest challenge is the extended ranges of new weapons coming on line. This is especially true in indirect fire artillery systems. Weapon ranges exceed the limits of YPG. YPG is working with Bureau of Land Management to find new ways to shoot to 100+ kilometers. COL Poppenberger was joined at the meeting by his father, a Navy veteran. Thank you, COL Poppenberger, for a great presentation.



Archie Kelley and Carol Kelley pose in front of his 100th Birthday Cake



Autumn Ballesteros entertains us with her education in Russia



CAPT Archie Kelley awards Midshipman Autumn Ballesteros her \$2,500 MOAA Scholarship

## Dave Price Travels America

Hello fellow Arizona Chapter members. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and escaped the heat. Susan and I are still married after spending six weeks in our little truck camper driving all over America. Traveling 8500 miles through 19 states served to remind us how amazing is this grand experiment we call the United States. Up and across the northern tier through the Rust Belt to the east coast and then back through old oil country we met all kinds of people in all manner of places. What particularly struck us on this cross-country, our fourth in as many years, was how hopeful and busy America seems. The Black Hills of South Dakota were so full of tourists and vacationers that we had to drive until after midnight up to Buffalo, SD, to find an open campsite. Without taking sides on environmental issues or politics, we were particularly impressed by the economic boom of the shale oil rush in North Dakota's Bakken Field. In all our travels we've never seen so much heavy equipment as what's in and around Watford City. We should own stock in big dually pickups because everyone working up there is driving a brand new one.

Up in Grand Marais, MN, they were open for business and the annual art festival was really hopping. Who knew so many folks would travel that far up into Minnesota? We were expecting to just be out in the wilderness up there but the people were so friendly and the food so good, we trekked into town twice, over 50 miles from our campsite in the Boundary Waters. If you visit, try the fresh Lake Superior fish and some good local brews. We saw a lot of young folks "doing" the Appalachian Trail on a short hike we took in western Maryland. God bless 'em! And hopefully some who had been on the trail for weeks (yep) got a shower soon after we met them. Stanky! But they were all friendly and showing the can-do spirit of this great country as they hiked north or south. I guess that rangy odor was really just the smell of determination to get to their goal!

On our way back home from visiting friends and family in Virginia, we camped outside the little town of Pawhuska, OK, and spent a morning in town. I'll

bet those of you who are into cooking probably know of Ree Drummond and her Pioneer Woman brand. That little town had been in decline since the Osage oil boom of the Twenties. Now it's on the upswing and in a downtown revival built around The Mercantile that she's opened there. What a country!

Finally, on our last night on the road we camped along sleepy old U.S. 60 outside Willard, NM, expecting a quiet night in the camper. Ignorant on our part since the railroad that runs along that old highway is one of the busiest transcons in North America. It seemed like we had gone back in time to the heyday of rail in this country. How exciting to see so much energy and movement in the American economy as reflected (off the walls of our camper) by the sound of a train chugging up the hill and an extra-long train whistle every twenty minutes. I wonder if those engineers were messing with us! So what's the so what? Many have sacrificed life or limb to keep this democratic republic of ours alive, taking a stand against those who would literally destroy it and take away the hope it represents from humanity. And, like on every road trip across this great nation, we met many of the people who make this country the shining light we've all had the privilege of serving. They were of every political persuasion, though politics rarely, if ever, comes up when we meet folks on these trips. They were of every race, color and creed. And, despite all of the little differences that make us so diverse as a people, in background, education, politics, etc., the conclusion of the Navy Flyers Creed still gets it right; the American people and their way of life are worthy of our greatest protective efforts. Maybe our leaders in DC from both parties need to go spend some time in a truck camper!

## MEMBERSHIP

by Dave Price, Membership Chair

At the end of September, our total membership stands at 153, including 22 surviving spouses. Thanks to Lee Lange's and Ron Bright's summer letter-writing campaign to folks on National's recruiting list, six new members have joined over the past few months. Despite this success, history shows us that our individual members are the best recruiters.

**Membership** by Dave (Continued on Page 6)



## National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange  
Legislation Chairman

### Congress Passes Defense Appropriations Bill

This month's update is drawn from MOAA's Legislative Updates. The Senate wasted no time after returning to work and on August 23 passed its version of the fiscal year 2019 defense appropriations legislation as part of an \$856.9 billion "minibus" spending package (H.R. 6157).

The Senate has not moved this fast on the defense appropriations bill in nearly a decade. The legislation was passed following two days of debate, by a vote of 85-7. The legislation supports funding of the measures in the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), previously signed by the President, including the 2.6 percent pay raise for troops. H.R. 6157 approved \$674.9 billion in discretionary defense spending and was reconciled with the House version of the FY2019 defense spending legislation in conference committee. The conference committee approved the final bill September 13. The full Senate voted 93-7 to approve the final bill the same day. The House approved the final bill September 26. It now goes to the President as part of the "minibus" package mentioned above. He has said he will sign it and likely has by the time you read this.

### MOAA's COLA Prediction: How Much Your Retired Pay Will Go Up Jan 1

With fiscal year 2018 now ended, MOAA will soon know the final Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired pay and social security benefits for next year. MOAA's prediction for the final COLA is 2.8 percent. This means, starting Jan. 1, 2019, you would see an increase of roughly \$28 for every \$1,000 of retired pay you receive.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2018 (the final month of the fiscal year) is scheduled to be released on Oct. 11, at which point MOAA can confirm the final COLA.

CPI growth has slowed in the past couple of months but has still shown the highest year-over-year growth in years. The biggest factors in this year's growth have been energy, housing, and transportation services

## Legislative Update ... *continued*

Food prices had a modest impact on CPI as well.

Measured price changes on food products, clothing, housings costs, medical services, and other groupings determine the annual COLA. The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current year to the average for the same months of the year prior.

## Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer

### Six Things to Consider Before Making a Donation

When you decide to support a charity purportedly benefitting active duty military, veterans and their families, MOAA urges you to ensure your gift will actually support that cause. Doing research ahead of time will ensure your donation goes to a legitimate organization doing what you intended.

MOAA offers six tips to consider before donating to a charity:<https://www.guidestar.org>

1. Check <https://www.guidestar.org>, a nonprofit organization that lists financial information reported by charities, and specifically check its rating, a measure of how transparent the organization is with its governance. Make sure you type in the exact name of the organization or you may have to scroll through several similar entries. Also, be careful. Many organizations, like MOAA, have hundreds of independent chapters, so make sure you get the parent organization.
2. Check <https://www.charitynavigator.org/> which rates nonprofit organizations. Unlike GuideStar, Charity Navigator rates only nonprofits with annual revenues greater than \$1 million.
3. Scan <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-990> Check for the length of the company's existence; how the nonprofit has performed year-over-year; program expenses, manage-

**Personal Affairs (Continued on Page 5)**

### Personal Affairs ...continued from Page 4

3. (IRS cont.) program expenses, management expenses; and number of board members.

4. Check the charity's website. Look for clearly defined programs and specific activities in which the nonprofit is engaged. Some nonprofit websites have a very professional look, but with very few programs. This is a warning flag to look deeper.

5. Search complaints. One of the easiest ways to do this is to type the name of the charity and the word "complaints" into <https://www.google.com/> You can also go to <https://www.glassdoor.com/Reviews/index.htm> for information about the charity's track record.

### Membership ... continued from Page 4

Dr. Paul Schnur continues his untiring and successful personal recruiting efforts. Only Lee Lange is even close! I can't tell you how many membership applications have Paul's name on them as the referring chapter member but it's a bunch. (Well, actually, I can probably tell you but everyone knows a good naval aviator is a lazy naval aviator - at least that's what I remember being taught).

In line with National's new record-keeping system, I've recently reconciled our membership roster with National's, updating their official roster in the process so that we're in good standing with HQ, something even naval aviators know to do. Unfortunately, we still have 25 members who did not pay dues for 2018 who will have to be dropped by year's end as part of the reconciliation process in January, this in spite of my repeated e-mail reminders and Lee Lange's effort to contact folks by mail.

Thankfully, Lee's effort did get several of those on our list to re-up before we had to drop them from the roster. I think some who didn't renew lost interest or maybe simply forgot. Some might be confused about the need to pay separate dues for National MOAA and the Arizona chapter (we must maintain membership in both). Amazingly, it's already that time of year again when we begin our membership renewal campaign for the chapter! Individual membership fees are due by January 1 for calendar year 2019. (Continued ...)

Chapter membership dues pay for operating costs including our web site, storage locker, mailings and our award-winning newsletter, amongst other things (all strictly accounted for). Charlie Bitner runs a tight financial ship as treasurer and the board and officers (all volunteers) do an excellent job of stewardship. So please make sure you take the opportunity at your earliest convenience to re-new your membership. As added incentive, your 2019 dues are discounted to \$18 if you pay in person or by mail prior to the end of 2018. After that the price goes up to \$20. Thanks in advance for your 2019 membership!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**CAPT PHILIP BOND, USAF (RET)  
AND HIS WIFE BETTY**

### Who can join MOAA

Eligibility: Men and women who are or have been federally commissioned in one of the seven U.S. uniformed services:

Army

Navy

Air Force

Marine Corps

Coast Guard

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Public Health Services

National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services.

Widows and widowers of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership in accordance with the above.

## October Picnic

**WHEN:** October 27, 2018  
 11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour  
 11:45 am Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Stillman RR Park  
**Stillman Ramada**, Scottsdale

**COST:** \$25 Per Person reservation by 4 PM  
 10/16/2018 and \$0 for Prospective  
 Members

**DRESS:** Picnic Casual

**MENU:** Famous Dave's BBQ

**PROGRAM:** Western Music by Cimarron Sidekicks

## Arizona Chapter 2018 Schedule of Meetings and Events

**October:**  
 Board Meeting on the 4th  
 Picnic luncheon on the 27th

**November:**  
 Board Meeting on the 8th  
 Luncheon on the 17th

**December:**  
 Board Meeting on the 6th  
 Holiday Party on the 15th

**January 2019:**  
 Board Meeting on the 3rd  
 Luncheon on the 19th

## SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

### ~ SCHOLARSHIP ~

**JOHN & SHARON ADY \$100**  
**RICHARD & DEBORAH MINOR \$100**  
**CHARLES SCHLUTER \$50**  
**BILL POPPENBERGER \$30**  
**JAMES GWINN \$30**

### ~ GENERAL ~

**CHARLES SCHLUTER \$50**

Renew your dues online using your credit card.  
 Simply go to AZMOAA.org and click on Membership  
 Scroll down and click on **Pay My Chapter Dues**  
 Select "Renew"  
 Select "Arizona"  
 Select "Arizona Chapter"  
 Then click on NEXT and continue to follow the instructions.  
 You will be asked to fill out your personal contact and military  
 info on this page (don't forget to have your National MOAA  
 membership number handy)  
 You will be asked whether you want to renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.  
 You will be asked for your payment and will receive  
 email confirmation of your online payment.

### MEAL/RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ meals for (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00/person) for the May 2018 luncheon. Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** or pay by credit card at the luncheon. 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 October 23**  
**Cancellations after October 23 will be charged and not refunded.**

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame**

Congratulations to LtCol Ray Boucher, USAF (Ret) and Col Lee F Lange II, USMC (Ret) and who have been selected for induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is a program designed and managed by the Unified Arizona Veterans and the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society to recognize those Veterans who have contributed to their community, state, or nation in an exemplary manner outside military service.

Their military records are part of the selection process as are their contributions to our community veterans and civic organizations. This recognition is significant because the final approval authority for the award is the Governor of Arizona. The induction ceremony is scheduled for 26 October at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale.

<b>The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs</b>					
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	LTC Ron Bright, USA	480-614-9463	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Janet Lange, USMC Spouse	571-722-4348
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b>	CDR Mike Rogers, USN	925-360-4052	<b>ADVERTISING</b>	Janet Lange, USMC Spouse	571-722-4348
<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b>	CAPT Dave Price, USN	831-233-8131	<b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF	602-482-3838
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Maj David Boyd, USAF	202-617-0337	<b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b>	Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF	602-482-3838
<b>TREASURER</b>	Col Charles Bitner, USAF	602-943-0028	<b>JROTC AWARDS</b>	Lt Col John Simmons, USAF	623-326-5352
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Col Lee Lange, USMC	703-232-3609	<b>LEGISLATION</b>	Col Lee Lange, USMC	703-232-3609
<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	CDR Jack Farley USN, Pete Veitenhans, USA; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach USN, CAPT Jon Shawl, USN; LT Bob Hinton, USN		<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	CAPT David Price, USN	831-233-8131
			<b>SURVIVING SPOUSES</b>	Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse	602-993-8556
			<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	COL Daniel Butler, USA	480-352-2682
			<b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>	Col Lee Lange, USMC	703-232-3609
			<b>PROGRAMS</b>	CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Chair	602-501-9876
				Col Lee Lange, Vice Chair	703-232-3609
			<b>ARRANGEMENTS</b>	Col Lee Lange, USMC	703-232-3609
			<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	CAPT Jon Shawl, USN	602-999-8253
			<b>TRANSITION LIAISON</b>	CDR Jim Draper USN	480-483-7769
			<b>WEBMASTER</b>	COL Rob Welch USA	480-207-6446
			<b>SHARE A RIDE</b>	Vacant	

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [azmoaa.org](http://azmoaa.org)

Arizona Chapter  
 Military Officers Association of America  
 41122 N. Majesty Way  
 Anthem, AZ 85086



azmoaa.org



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