



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter
The Military Officer's Association of America
The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



November 2023 CHARTERED Oct 1956 67 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY Stephen MacDonald, EDITOR

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and Chairpersons

President's Perspective by Tom Sheets



Thank you to the 37 members who participated in our annual picnic at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. I want to thank the three individuals who made it happen: Donna Bright, Charlie Bitner, and Bruce Kosaveach. I think I can honestly say, a good time was had by all. And...we did not have to huddle under the ramada to avoid getting drenched this year!

Although we did not have a physical event to accompany it, the Chapter continued its use of the service academy football games to serve as both an opportunity for fun inter-service rivalry and to raise money for our Chapter programs and causes. By selling one whole board of squares and 88 of 100 on the second, we paid out \$400 to winners and netted \$540. Thank you to all who supported our efforts to put the "fun" in fundraising. Congratulations to Air Force on their win, even with an injured starting quarterback.

And now on to America's game—the 124th Army-Navy game. We will again partner with the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce and hold our Army-Navy part at Famous 48 at 8989 N Scottsdale Road on Saturday, December 9th. See the flyer on page 9 for details. Last year we sold out four boards—let's go for five this year. That is 500 squares at \$5.00 each.

(Continued on page 3.)



FEBRUARY 23,
1929

US ARMY
JUNE 14, 1775

US NAVY
OCT 13, 1775

US MARINE
CORPS
NOV 10, 1775

US COAST
GUARD
AUG 14, 1790

US PUBLIC
HEALTH
SERVICE
JAN 4, 1889

US AIR FORCE
SEP 18, 1947

NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION
OCT 3, 1970

US SPACE
FORCE
DEC 20, 2019

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Military Officers
Association of America
(MOAA).
MOAA and its affiliate
chapters and councils
are non-partisan.



Chapter Membership

by Bob Fiegl, Chapter 1st VP
and Membership Chair
Fieglr869@gmail.com

Happy November! I love this time of year – I hope you do, too!

Veteran’s Day is rapidly approaching and each year many businesses and restaurants offer Vets some really good discounts and even free stuff. [Here’s a good source for information on that.](#)

I would like to take a moment to recognize one of our own, a very special person, who has been a tremendous membership recruiter and fund raiser for our chapter: Commander Jack Farley USN (Ret). Jack has held officer & Board positions and he has supported our chapter in a number of important ways, but these are the two areas I know a little something about, and I believe a lot of gratitude and recognition are deserved here. So, Jack, my personal ‘thank you’ shipmate, for all of your efforts and for being so easy to work with.

Here's a little information about chapter membership now. This is important, ladies and gentlemen. Every member in a MOAA chapter must be a member in good standing with national MOAA, and that includes payment of dues. For our **LIFE**

members, you pay once and your national MOAA dues are paid up for life. If you’re a **PREMIUM** member (another term for ‘annual member’), you have to pay dues to MOAA annually. Last, if you’re a **BASIC** member, there are no dues payments to MOAA – but – you have to be registered with them. With any class of membership, you’ll be given a member number. The type/level of membership you choose will probably be determined by the MOAA benefits you want. If you are/were a **LIFE** or **PREMIUM** member but you don’t need that level any more, you can easily switch to **BASIC** (no cost). If you need assistance, please contact MOAA member services or me. [Here’s a link to take you directly to the MOAA membership page.](#)

Please check your MOAA ‘Profile’, too. Many of us have moved or changed contact information, and that should be updated. Lastly, we have members who have checked the box on their MOAA profile stating they didn’t want any telephone or email contact from MOAA. Well, that includes us, your friendly chapter. Please be sure to review that and check the appropriate selection.

I’m sorry, but I have to close with this: chapter dues. About one fourth of our members have not paid their annual chapter dues for 2023 yet; they were due in January. *(Continued on page 3.)*



ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL FORM

2024 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2024.

If you become delinquent, you can still pay your Past Dues by completing your information below and send it with your check — **\$20/year for a Regular Member** or **\$10/year for a Surviving Spouse Member** payable to “AZ Chapter MOAA” and mail to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020.**

Dues for **2023** \$ _____ Dues for **2024** \$ _____

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

Please make any CHANGES to your Contact Information below:

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

[To Renew Online - Click Here!](#)

President's Perspective

Continued from page 1

Each \$5.00 square gives you four chances to win \$50. If we sell five boards we will give out \$1,000 in payouts to winners and make \$1,500 to divide equally among our two hosting organizations. We will also have raffle items that normally include a grand prize of nearly \$200 in cash! So...put it on your calendar and wear your service logo while we continue to put the fun in fundraising.

On a more official note, I encourage you to come to the November luncheon at McCormick Ranch. It is our annual meeting of members, where YOU will determine the annual dues for 2024 and approve the slate of officers and directors to lead our chapter in 2024. Please note the article on those two items of official business on page 8.

I hope to see you at the November luncheon.

Tom



**VETERANS
DAY**

Meritorious Service Awards 2023

This year's Meritorious Service Awards (MSA's) recognize three members of the Board of Directors who have made significant contributions to the chapter. The first is **Bob Fiegl**, who continues his great work as Membership Chair, recruiting new members and retaining current members. (This is Bob's third award.) Second is **Steve MacDonald**, who has excelled in his first year as our newsletter editor. (This is Steve's first award.) Finally, **Carole Litten** has stepped up as the chapter Secretary, a key position in documenting chapter activities and history. (This is Carole's first award.) Awards will be presented at the November luncheon. Please wear your MSA if you have one and congratulate our newest award recipients.

Announcements!

September 2023 Donations

General Fund:

Lynn S. Brady \$500

Useful Web Links:

[Chapter Home Page](#)

[Member Dues Renewal](#)

[Chapter Events](#)

[National MOAA Website](#)

[MOAA Store](#)

[MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)

**Check Out Our
Facebook Page!
[Facebook](#)**

Don't forget to "Like" and "Follow" us!

Chapter Membership

Continued from page 2

Please feel free to check with me via email if you have a question about your status. Dues may be paid online with a credit card, at a monthly luncheon with a credit card, check, or cash, or by mailing a check to Charlie Bitner, our Treasurer. (See the renewal form on page 2.) Please tend to this matter if you haven't paid yet. Dues are still \$20 annually (\$10 for surviving spouses). [Here's a link for paying online.](#)

We need more members! Please recruit!

Warm regards,
Bob



MEMBER LUNCHEON

November 18th, 2023



“Keeping the Faith in Difficult Times”

Paula Pedene

Inspirational Speaker and Award Winning Author



Paula Pedene began working as the public information officer at the Phoenix VA Hospital in 1994 after a decorated career in the U.S. Navy was derailed by vision loss. While working in the director’s office, she began to notice inconsistencies in how the hospital handled waiting lists for veterans receiving care.

In 2014, Paula worked with Dr. Sam Foote to blow the whistle on the agency for fraudulently fudging patient waiting lists to make it appear that vets were being seen within the required time frame. The scandal led to the resignation of several VA officials, including the department's cabinet secretary Eric Shinseki.

An internal investigation at the Phoenix VA found that 40 veterans had died while waiting for care, but a 2016 investigation by the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs found at least 200 cases of veterans dying while waiting for care.

Pedene’s book, *A Sacred Duty: How a Whistleblower Took on the VA and Won*, details how she discovered the agency’s practice of maintaining multiple waiting lists to hide actual wait times, her attempts to report it to authorities within the VA, and the retaliation she faced from higher-ups.

- Agenda:** 11:00-11:45 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
11:45 am-12:00 pm Pledge, Invocation, Announcements
12:00-2:00pm Lunch and Program
- Place:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
- Cost:** \$40 Per Person; Reservations by 4PM, Tuesday, 14 Nov 2023 to Charlie Bitner
RSVP to Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix 85020
By email: charles@bitner36.com or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028; [PAY ONLINE!](#)
- Menu:** McCormick Signature Salad, Roasted Turkey Breast with Savory Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Turkey Gravy, Pumpkin Pie
- Dress:** Business Casual

Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair



Congress Running Out of Time - Shutdown Looms Again

The government is currently running on a Continuing Resolution (CR) budget deal that expires November 14 – less than three weeks from now. Three weeks were lost in finding a new Speaker of the House, but now we have one and time is short. Lawmakers still have to pass 12 appropriations bills to fund the government for the rest of FY 2024 – or pass yet another CR. What a way to run a railroad!

MOAA has long pressed the need to end this crippling cycle of continuing resolutions – to fully fund the government before the end of the fiscal year, and to eliminate yet another source of stress and instability from the lives of those in uniform, and of their family members. These pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

Put bluntly, actions like these damage our national security. Not just because a shutdown would disrupt key services, or because the lack of a full budget means new, innovative programs remain stalled while old, outdated processes move forward. The real threat doesn't come from the balance sheet – it comes from the lack of respect shown toward those who serve from the individuals who are proud to “support our troops.”

This dysfunctional behavior comes as the uniformed services face unprecedented recruiting challenges. Even as some in Congress attempt to

address recent reports of horrific barracks conditions, the overall message sent by lawmakers is unmistakable – do not expect us to prioritize the care of those willing to sacrifice everything on behalf of our nation.

How does a recruiter make any headway with that message in the headlines? How can military retirees be expected to encourage the service of future servicemembers when evidence suggests those potential recruits will not have the full support of their government?

MOAA has long worked to ensure the benefits of all who serve – all ranks, all branches – and their families and survivors. That's why we want to encourage our members to do what lawmakers seemingly cannot – keep the budget fight in the spotlight, even when a funding deadline isn't right around the corner.

Send a message to your legislators via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) today. Tell them the budget brinkmanship needs to stop – not just to keep the lights on, but to maintain the trust of servicemembers, veterans and military families who make up the backbone of the all-volunteer force. It's a simple step to show Congress truly “supports our troops.”



Nov 18th Member Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$40.00/person) for the Nov 18th Member Luncheon Meeting payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by **Nov 14th, 2023** to: **Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020**, or contact: **Charles@Bitner36.com, 602-943-0028**.

Member reservations or call-ins **WILL NOT** be accepted after **Nov 14th, 2023 @ 4pm**

Cancellations after Nov 14th, 2023 at 4 pm will be charged and not refunded.

[TO PAY ONLINE - CLICK HERE!](#)

Recent Chapter Events October BBQ Picnic

Our October BBQ luncheon meeting was held at the Stillman Railroad Park as has been for many years. Scott Hallock played good tunes for us during and after lunch, and Famous Dave's provided their usual great meal of BBQ meats and add-ons. And a good time was had by all!



Scott Hallock entertains the group.



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Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



2024 FEDVIP Plans and Premiums Announced Ahead of Open Season

The average dental and vision plans under the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) will see small increases in 2024, according to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which recently announced and posted the plans and premiums.

OPM manages the health, dental and vision insurance programs for federal civilian employees. Military retirees, and their beneficiaries, enrolled in TRICARE have been eligible to utilize FEDVIP programs since 2019.

The 2024 average monthly dental premium will increase by 1.4%, and vision premiums by 1.1%. FEDVIP features 12 dental plan providers and five vision plan providers.

All but one dental provider offers both “standard” and “high” plan options. Standard plans have lower monthly premiums (usually half of the high option) but higher co-pays. As a rule, the standard plan is probably best if you and/or your family have good oral health,

but a high plan may be best if you and/or your family have poor oral health or orthodonture needs. The major difference between standard and high vision plans is the yearly frame/lens allowance. Plan premium rates are based on where you live.

Some notable changes to next year’s plans:

- Seven of the 12 dental carriers added coverage for the use of nitrous oxide when medically necessary.
- Two of the five vision carriers increased the frame allowance dollar amount.

Even if you are satisfied with your current plan, it never hurts to conduct a yearly comparison of FEDVIP plans. The [BENEFEDS Plan Comparison Tool](#) will have both 2023 and 2024 pricing available for comparison.

The 2024 TRICARE and FEDVIP open season begins November 13, 2023, and concludes December 11 at midnight. Changes to your dental and vision coverage take effect January 1, 2024.

MOAA strongly recommends comparing next year’s pricing with this year’s premium to ensure you are satisfied with your dental and/or vision plan. If you take no action during the open season, you will be automatically “rolled over” to the same plan with new pricing next year. Get more FEDVIP information at [BENEFEDS.com](#).

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drinks, every day!**

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Phone: 480.443.5324

Official Business to be Conducted at the Annual Meeting of Members at McCormick Ranch on Saturday November 18, 2023

Per the requirements of our bylaws, we will conduct two official business items at the Annual Meeting of Members conducted in conjunction with our November luncheon:

Annual Dues: Our bylaws assign the power to determine our annual dues in the members of the Chapter. The Board of Directors recommends the annual dues remain unchanged: \$20 for members and \$10 for Surviving Spouses.

Annual slate of Officers and Directors: The bylaws also assign the power to approve the annual slate of officers and directors to the members of the Chapter. Consistent with those bylaws, the Board of Directors will recommend the following slate of officers and directors for the 2024 term of office.

OFFICERS

President	Bruce Kosaveach
1 st Vice President	Bob Fiegl
2 nd Vice President	Daniel Arroyo
Secretary	Carole Litten
Treasurer	Charlie Bitner
Immediate Past President	Tom Sheets

DIRECTORS

Director	Chuck Christoph
Director	Steve MacDonald
Director	Lenore Portante
Director	Donna Tew
Director	Richard Zweig

At the annual meeting, The President will separately ask for motions and seconds, and call for votes of members on these two business matters.

The Board of Directors requests your support of these two measures.



In Remembrance

Janet Lange

USMC Spouse

Former AZMOAA Board Member

Former Sentinel Editor

Let's keep Lee and their entire family in
our thoughts and prayers



2023 Army-Navy Football Game Party

Join us for America's Game AND raise money to support the Veteran programs of the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce (SWVCC) and the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (AZMOAA)

Saturday December 9th, 2023
@ "Famous 48"— 8989 N Scottsdale Rd #608, Scottsdale, AZ
Tailgate Party (inside) 12:00; Kickoff 1:00



Program will include:

- Individual luncheon orders
- "Football Pool" - \$5 a square; four \$50 payouts for each 100 squares
- Goal is to sell five boards
- Raffle tickets for a prize after each quarter and halftime
- Spirited interservice rivalry
- Introduce prospective members to our organizations

Get your squares **now** at <https://business.swvcc.org/store>, at any SWVCC event, or by calling 602.677.2961/760.213.3705. If paying by check, please make your check payable to "SWVCC."



<https://business.swvcc.org/store>

***** (You do not have to be present to win) *****

On behalf of the Veterans and their families who will benefit from your generosity
WE THANK YOU!

Arizona Chapter MOAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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), or NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) or U.S. Public Health Services, the National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services, and Surviving Spouses of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership as defined above. ([Click here for online application form.](#))

Full Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____

Service Status: Active (includes Reserve/National Guard) Retired
 Former Officer Warrant Officer
 Surviving spouse of deceased MOAA member OR eligible individual

Date of Birth: _____

Your MOAA Member Number: _____ (National MOAA membership is required.)

If you are not currently a member of National MOAA, you may request membership at moaa.org

OR you may request the AZ Chapter Membership Chairperson, Bob Fiegl, to enroll you in National MOAA for a no-cost Basic Membership for 3 Years. You can email Bob at Fieglr869@gmail.com.

Chapter Dues are \$20.00 per year for a Regular Member and \$10 for a Surviving Spouse. *(This is separate from your national MOAA membership. Even if you have a free membership at national, you must still pay chapter dues.)*

Dues for new members joining: Jan 1 –Jun 30 = **\$20** . Jul 1 – Dec 31 = **\$20** (includes following year paid in full).

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Please mail check payable to “**AZ Chapter MOAA**” with completed application to Chapter Treasurer: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

How did you learn about the Arizona Chapter? AZ MOAA Website *The Sentinel* Newsletter
 AZ MOAA Chapter Membership Chairman Other (_____)

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____



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Who Can Join MOAA?

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
- Space Force
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Public Health Services
- The 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.

**ARIZONA CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America**

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

First Thursday of each month
November 2nd, 2023
the American Legion Post 44
7145 E 2nd Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Member Luncheon/Meetings

Third Saturday of each month at 11am
Next Meeting: Nov 18th, 2023
McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Upcoming Events

9 Dec 2023: Annual Army-Navy Game
16 Dec 2023: Annual Christmas Luncheon

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	<p>PETER A. BERGER, MPC, LPC, LISAC Associated Recovery Counselors</p>	
	<p>7101 East Indian School Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85251</p>	
		<p>480-429-6292</p>

<p>PRESIDENT Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705</p> <p>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN 850-207-9845</p> <p>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN 412-779-0372</p> <p>SECRETARY CAPT Carole Litten, USN 970-355-8981</p> <p>TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028</p> <p>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Maj Pete Berger, USAF 602-739-0586</p> <p>DIRECTORS: Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF; CDR Jack Farley, USN; Capt Stephen MacDonald, USAF</p>	<p>ADVERTISING Capt Stephen MacDonald, USAF 310-972-9263</p> <p>ARRANGEMENTS Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028</p> <p>CHAPLAIN Col Miriam Rosa-Cummo, USA 516-521-1511</p> <p>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838</p> <p>JROTC AWARDS Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838</p> <p>LEGISLATION Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN 850-207-9845</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COMMUNICATIONS Capt Stephen MacDonald, USAF 310-972-9263</p> <p>PERSONAL AFFAIRS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609</p> <p>PROGRAMS CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN 602-501-9876</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIPS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609</p> <p>SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556</p> <p>TRANSITION LIAISON CDR Jim Draper USN 480-483-7769</p> <p>WEBMASTER Carl Ulbrich, Jireh Communications</p>
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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org
The *Sentinel* Newsletter is sent electronically

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
3537 E Tina Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85050



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