



**THE ARIZONA CHAPTER**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
*Arizona's First Chapter*



**Minutes of the AZ MOAA Chapter Membership November 18, 2023,**

**11:00 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale, AZ**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Tom Sheets called the meeting to order at 11:05.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tom led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Bruce Kosaveach.

**PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:**

Tom welcomed all members to the luncheon meeting and welcomed. Tom shared condolences in the recent death of Janet Lange, Col Lee Lange's spouse.

**NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS RECOGNITION:**

There were none at this meeting.

**ANNUAL MEETING:**

Preliminaries: Tom read the by-laws covering what must be included in the Annual Meeting. Tom confirmed with Charlie Bitner that we did have a quorum with 34 members present. Tom called the meeting to order.

**Official Business:**

Set Annual Dues:

Bylaws give the sole responsibility of setting the annual dues to the Members. Tom stated that the Board recommends that the dues be kept the same: \$20 for members and \$10 for surviving spouses. John Ady motioned for approval and Albert Crawford second this motion. The vote was unanimous in approving these dues for 2024.

Election of Officers and Directors:

Tom read out the bylaw requirements for the Board composition and that the BoD recommends to the members the annual slate. The list of all eleven nominations are listed on page 8 of the November Sentinel. The membership approved the whole slate of nominees. They will be installed in the December General Meeting and begin official duties in January 2024.

In recognition of the unselfish volunteers of all previous Officers and Directors, Tom asked that they stand while the members recognized and applauded them.

Treasurer's Report:

Charlie reported: General Fund: \$9,487.31, Scholarship Fund: \$17,072.32. Charlie also mentioned that the reservations for December meeting is capped at 50 people due to reduced seating space.

Membership Report:



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**(con't)**

Tom read Bob Fiegl's membership report of 145 regular members/ 23 surviving spouses/ 2 Other for a total of 170 members with 1 honorary member.

Meritorious Service Awards:

Lee Lange and Tom Sheets presented the annual service awards: Steve MacDonald (first award), Carole Litten (First Award) and Bob Fiegl (third award).

Other Official Business:

Bill Rocher stated that he would like to see more members render a hand salute during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjourn Annual Meeting:

Tom called for a motion to adjourn the 2023 Annual Meeting. Bruce Kosaveach motioned such and Steve MacDonald provided the second. The member's vote was unanimous.

**LUNCH SERVED**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER**

Steve MacDonald introduced our guest speaker Paula Pedene. Paula 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.

Tom thanked Paula and presented her with the AZ MOAA Challenge coin.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE DRAWING:**

Today the scholarship raffle had two award winners of \$30 each.

**WINE AUCTION**

Tom auctioned a magnum bottle of Cooper's Hawk wine in a reverse auction which sold at \$70.

**GOOD OR THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Results of Air Force-Navy Football Pool:



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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**(con't)**

Winners: Charlie Bittner, Jack Farley, Pete Berger, Tom Sheets, a Sagewood guest.

Army-Navy Game Party (Dec 8<sup>th</sup> @ Famous 48):

Currently have 4 boards however the SWVA is looking for 5 boards!! The doors open at noon and the game begins at 1300. Navy is currently favored.

Next Meeting:

Annual Christmas Party December 16<sup>th</sup> @ McCormick Ranch & Installation of Officers and Directors.

Bring a gift for the Gift Exchange. Tom explained the rules of how the Gift Exchange works.

**FINAL REMARKS:**

Go Navy, Beat Army!!

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Carole Litten, Secretary

**MOAA™**