



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter
The Military Officer's Association of America

The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



September 2024 CHARTERED Oct 1956 67 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY Stephen MacDonald, EDITOR

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and Chairpersons

President's Perspective by Bruce Kosaveach



Welcome back from the hot summer break, and I hope you had a chance to participate in one of our three chapter events during that time. We had 37 members and guests participate in our July Happy Hour at Maggianos, and a good time was had by all! Thanks to Tom Sheets for organizing this event again, and due to its popularity, we will make this an annual event. Our baseball outing was a home run also, and special thanks to Beth and Jim Cullison for setting up that event again. It's always a good time – and the Diamondbacks beat the Phillies 12-5!! Pictures on page 9.

And our event, "Still Serving: Military, Veterans, and Families," utilized \$5000 from both the MOAA Foundation Community Grant and our chapter funds to again work with three non-profit veterans organizations to benefit Arizona service members globally and Arizona veterans locally. This is our fifth year in a row working with these fine institutions. Story on page 8.

Our September luncheon is coming up fast, and we look forward to seeing you again. Our September speaker is Tomas Nuno, Ph.D., from All of Us and was referred by Jeff Young. See the flyer on page 3.

We had a special food committee meet and select our luncheon menus for the upcoming

(Continued on page 4.)



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

The Sentinel

newsletter is published by the Arizona Chapter of the 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

Welcome back to another exciting edition of our Chapter's award-winning Sentinel newsletter! Thanks for dropping by.

Perhaps you'll consider it good news that I don't have any big headlines to share here...that means no bad news, thankfully. I'll devote this article to some bits and pieces of news, though. Here goes:

On August 14th, MOAA hosted an online chapter leader's workshop for states in the southwest US, which I participated in. The main topics were MOAA changes, legislative Advocacy, Recruitment, Surviving Spouse matters, actuarial projections for future membership numbers and the announcement of the next regional conference in Reno, NV, Nov. 15th & 16th, which I'll be attending.

The part of MOAA's main website we use for member enrollment and dis-enrollment, officer position changes, Near Real-time (NRT) Report downloads, etc. is not online yet. It was supposed to be running last spring; you may recall I've written about this previously. MOAA hired a contractor to implement the new system earlier this year, and

despite their diligent work, they've been unable to meet all the operational needs, so we wait. I'll keep you posted.

Important note: Our chapter lists 157 total members. Because of MOAA's website issues, I'm unable to add our new members or drop members. As soon as the website is up and operating again, our chapter will be losing about 37 members for dues delinquency. Many attempts have been made to inform members of their arrears status. Expect our membership number to drop dramatically soon.

MOAA leaders are asking for any member holding a BASIC membership to consider upgrading to a Premium or LIFE membership. If you're a BASIC member, please consider doing this. I can provide you with assistance, if needed.

For members with spouses who have a LIFE membership, it's important for you to inform your spouse that your membership transfers, free of charge, to your spouse should you pre-decease them. Please ensure your personal information in the MOAA system is up to date (you can update your personal data now), and that your spouse knows of this benefit and that MOAA is able to provide a lot of aid and information to surviving spouses.

(Continued on page 4.)



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!](#)



MEMBER LUNCHEON

Sep 21st, 2024

All of Us

“From promise to progress; the future of healthy research is now.”

Dr. Tomas Nuño, Assistant Research Professor

University of Arizona Epidemiology & Biostatistics



Dr. Tomas Nuño is a researcher and instructor whose research program focuses on chronic disease prevention among underserved populations, using social and behavioral epidemiology, intervention evaluation, precision medicine, and implementation science methodologies. His scholarship is committed to a community-engaged approach; to conducting outreach in communities and engaging with partners, participants, and the public. Dr. Nuño serves as the Faculty Lead for the Engagement Core of the UA-Banner Health All of Us Research Program in Arizona. Additionally, he is a co-investigator in the Arizona Prevention Research Center, the Precision Aging Network, and the Center for Health Disparities Research. Dr. Nuño currently teaches: i) EPID 573A: Basic Principles of Epidemiology and ii) EPID/BIOS 450/550: Health Data Acquisition, Assessment, and Integration.

In his leisure time, Dr. Nuño enjoys his time with his family and friends. His hobbies include playing and watching sports including soccer, baseball, football, and basketball. He plays in the adult soccer and softball recreation leagues in Tucson, AZ. He is an avid Dodgers fan. He also enjoys reading books and is especially fond of biographies and books about science and spirituality.



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, 17 Sep 2024 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

Menu: Pan Seared Salmon with Lemon Dill Beurre Blanc, Lemon Rice, Signature Salad and German Chocolate Cake

Dress: Business Casual

President's Perspective

Continued from page 1

contract year. Aably led by Sharon Ady, team members included Charles Bitner, Chuck Christoph, Shirley Manchek, Ronnie Welch, and Richard Zweig. Bravo Zulu to the committee for doing a great job! AND - McCormick Ranch has graciously not increased our luncheon prices for the 2024-2025 contract year – our thanks to them!

Something you may not know – September 9th through the 27th, both the House and the Senate return to work for a three week stint. After the 27th, they adjourn until after the election. Let's take a minute to communicate to our US Senators and Representatives while they're in session and support national MOAA's efforts to address the legislative challenges facing our uniformed community. Here's the active link to access the MOAA Legislative Action Center:

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](http://quorum.us)

Our upcoming busy fall/winter cycle will include:

- October picnic.
- Annual election of officers and directors.
- Army/Navy Football Game Party.
- Annual holiday luncheon and installation of new officers and directors.
- The annual SWVCC Patriots Ball many of you have supported over the years. It will be held Saturday, September 28th, at Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort. All AZMOAA members enjoy the SWVCC member rate of \$140. See the flyer on page 10.

See you in September!



Best to all you fine people,

Bruce Kosaveach

President, AZ Chapter MOAA 

Renew Your Chapter Membership Now!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Announcements!

July/August 2024 Donations

Chapter Fund:

Charles Schluter \$250

Scholarship Fund:

John Ady \$300

Welcome New Member!

Patricia Scott

Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Check Out Our Facebook Page!:

[Facebook](#)

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

Chapter Membership

Continued from page 2

Some general membership information/numbers from MOAA HQ:

- Only 9% of MOAA members belong to a chapter.
- MOAA is experiencing the closing of 1 chapter per month, on average.
- In 2021 there were 40,244 MOAA members who belonged to a chapter; there are 35,355 now.
- Projected attrition/losses and gains/recruiting goals (gains in parenthesis): 2024: 1074 (353), 2025: 2256 (701), 2026: 4090 (1069), 2027: 6328 (1433).

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Legislative Affairs

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair



Summer Advocacy in Action Underway Now: Make Your Voice Heard

In this pivotal year for our nation's service members and veterans, MOAA remains at the forefront in the fight for key legislative changes. Our spring campaign event, Advocacy in Action, saw hundreds of supporters from across the nation gather on Capitol Hill to spotlight critical issues affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.

MOAA is grateful to those who have engaged in our advocacy efforts through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. To sustain this momentum, we are urging you and our more than 360,000 members to connect with your elected officials during the congressional summer recess. Legislators will be in their home states through September 6, providing a unique opportunity for personal outreach.

Key MOAA advocacy priorities for our [Advocacy in Action Summer Campaign](#):

Junior Enlisted Pay Raise

Competitive pay remains critical to the health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The House NDAA calls for service members E-1 to E-4 to receive a 15% pay raise beyond the 4.5% earmarked for all in uniform, while the Senate version calls for an additional 1% increase for service members E-1 to E-3 (beyond the 4.5% raise). MOAA supports the House version.

Restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness are important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues.

The House version of the NDAA would restore BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction, but not a permanent fix. Unfortunately, the Senate

version does not address the issue. Support the House version.

Concurrent Receipt

Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Major Richard Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset.

Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. However, it is critical lawmakers continue to hear about this critical issue from you, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress. Support the Richard Star Act getting into the NDAA.

Take Action Now

To do your part in keeping efforts rolling before Congress returns from summer recess, you can:

- Go to [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) and use it to send a message to your lawmakers.
- Call MOAA's toll-free hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to contact your congressional district representative and your two U.S. Senators making sure they hear from their constituents. Grassroots advocacy makes an impact, especially during election years. Ask to speak with the congressional staff's military legislative assistant or legislative director, and schedule a follow-up phone call, if needed, to speak with the appropriate staff member. MOAA needs our help.

Follow MOAA's progress at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#). 

Useful Web Links:

[Chapter Home Page](#)

[Member Dues Renewal](#)

[Chapter Events](#)

[Chapter News Blog](#)

[National MOAA Website](#)

[MOAA Store](#)

[MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)

Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs
Officer



Is Your Spouse Prepared If You Should Die First?

The death of a loved one is a tumultuous life transition. To prevent their spouses from suffering the consequences of being unprepared when dealing with the numerous details associated with a loved one's passing, MOAA members are encouraged to understand the tools and subject-matter experts available to them. The goal is to ensure the member's spouse also knows about the resources available should the member pass first.

MOAA is aware of the limited assistance provided to military retirees and surviving spouses in these situations. Many military bases have Retiree Activity Offices (RAOs) that do their absolute best to assist. However, these facilities are staffed mainly by volunteers and are severely under-resourced. In these austere times, improvements to RAO services are unlikely. Additionally, many survivors do not reside anywhere near a military installation.

Here are several MOAA resources that can help:
Member Service Center (MSC)

The MOAA Member Service Center, (800) 234-MOAA (6622), is staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, with dedicated professionals who have an affinity for assisting the military community. They have been expertly trained to provide or pursue answers to the wide array of questions MOAA gets asked.

If our member service representatives cannot adequately address an issue, they will connect a member or survivor to one of two Transition Center staff subject-matter experts.

Transition Center

MOAA's subject-matter experts possess more than 30 years of active-duty experience and have achieved their 20-plus years of post-military experience expertise and accreditation as financial and benefits counselors and educators. They routinely advise MOAA Premium and Life members on the full range of military and federal

(Continued on page 7.)

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Phone: 480.443.5324

personal affairs

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benefits – TRICARE, Medicare and TRICARE for Life, Social Security, VA benefits, and the Survivor Benefit Program, to name a few.

Publications and Guides

MOAA has an array of publications designed to assist paid members and their survivors. Most publications can be accessed [online](#). Copies of printed publications can be obtained via U.S. mail by calling the MSC. Our publications are updated on a regular basis, and the following are available pertaining to military survivor issues:

- [Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead](#). This guide can help you prepare, make decisions, and ease the financial, medical, and property transition for your family after you're gone.
- [Survivor's Planning Guide](#). Following the death of a loved one, it can be overwhelming to keep track of what

arrangements need to be made, who needs to be contacted, and notes on important phone calls. Designed by surviving spouses, this handbook is intended to help you do just that.

- [Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On](#). Keep this essential checklist on hand to refer to when dealing with a death in the family.
- [Your Guide to Military Burials](#). Use this resource for planning and decision-making regarding military burials and rights.

The other publications in MOAA's library include topics such as personal finance, military benefits, transition, spouse and family, and MOAA Chapters. The most popular publications include [Transitioning into Medicare and TRICARE for Life](#) and [Survivor Benefit Plan: Security for Your Survivors](#).

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Recent Chapter Events Still Serving: Military, Veterans, and Families

Our Chapter sponsored “Still Serving: Military, Veterans and Families,” formerly known as “Freedom Isn’t Free,” on July 18th at the Anthem Civic Center. This annual project using our MOAA Foundation Grant was renamed to better describe what we do and who benefits from it. While we truly believe “freedom isn’t free,” we concluded that we could use a better descriptive title.

Other than the name change, it was the same concept as our previous MOAA Grant projects. We again teamed with Youth for Troops, US Vets Phoenix, and Veterans First to support deployed troops, homeless veterans transitioning to independent living, and children of veterans who need help in preparing for another school year.

This year our Chapter received a \$3,250 grant from MOAA Foundation. Your Board of Directors voted to add \$1,750 so we could do more for more people. The smiles on the veteran family say it all!

The results of this year’s project produced:

- 50 food and 25 hygiene care packages for Arizona troops deployed overseas that were identified and mailed by Youth for Troops.
- 20 “move-in baskets” for formerly homeless veterans transitioning to independent living through US Vets caring leadership.
- 41 backpacks filled with needed school supplies for children of veterans in need that were delivered by Veterans First in time for the beginning of the school year.

We can all feel good about the positive impact we have on so many deserving troops, veterans, and military/veteran families!

We thank the MOAA Foundation for the grant and our community partners--Youth for Troops, US Vets, and Veterans First--who were present to help us with the project. We are also grateful to all our

members, whose support of our fundraising programs and events enabled the Chapter to kick in \$1,750 to increase the number of people benefitting from our efforts.

We recognize that many of our members travel in mid-July, but since our schools start so early, we must schedule it at this time to get the backpacks to our veteran children in time for the start of school. Thank you to Bruce Kosaveach, Steve MacDonald, Daniel Ortega, and Tom Sheets for squeezing this event into their summer schedules.

We take our MOAA motto—Never Stop Serving—to heart and are glad that we could again help so many deserving military and veterans and their families. We are still serving our deployed troops and our veterans—and their families.



**Arizona Chapter Mission:
Advocate for and improve
the lives of our military,
our veterans, and their
families.**

Diamondbacks Game!!



MOAA chapter members attended the Diamondbacks game August 11th against the Phillies. Diamondbacks 12 - Phillies 5. Yay!!



Chapter Membership

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Yes – lots of numbers here and it's probably a bit confusing, but the point being made is that membership enrollment is expected to be going in the wrong direction.

Just in case it's not mentioned elsewhere in this edition, MOAA leaders are requesting - urging - all members to use the MOAA website's 'Advocacy' feature to correspond with your legislators. This link should take you directly there: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. There are many high-priority issues being proposed in Washington that are important for military members, retirees, etc. I use this feature regularly to pass my input to my representatives in the House and Senate; I almost always receive a written response, and I have received personal telephone call responses from their staff, too. This should be a 'no brainer' for every MOAA member. Please support MOAA by making use of this easy-to-use tool!

Lastly, please recruit new members on behalf of MOAA and our Arizona Chapter! There's a copy of our application form in this edition of Sentinel and here's the online link to the application on our chapter's website: <https://azmoaa.org/membership/join-now/>. It's easy! Please help our recruiting effort.

Thanks for reading, friends. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. Let me know if you have any membership or dues related questions.

Warm regards,

Bob 


personal affairs

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Surviving Spouse Membership

Finally, a MOAA member's Life membership will transfer upon a MSC death notification to the surviving spouse. Similarly, the remainder of a Premium membership also transfers until expiration. Premium memberships may be renewed or upgraded to Life. Each surviving spouse will receive their own MOAA member number. Additionally, we invite all survivors to join our Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, which provides a common space for surviving spouses across the country to connect with one another and communicate about challenges and resources available for adjusting to a new life. You can reach out to this virtual chapter by emailing mssvc02@gmail.com.

Survivors also might be interested in joining a local MOAA chapter. Local chapters frequently can help with issues members and survivors face or offer some like-minded camaraderie. [Locate your nearest MOAA chapter.](#)

This article was originally published in 2019 and has been updated. Last update: July 30, 2024, by MOAA staff member Paul Frost. 

9th Annual Patriots Ball

September 28, 2024



Honoring Disabled and Paralyzed Veterans
A Tribute to Resilience



www.swvcc.org/pb

2024 Patriots Ball: Honoring Disabled & Paralyzed Veterans

The Southwest Veterans Foundation (SWVF) cordially invites all AZMOAA Members to join them in honoring our disabled and paralyzed veterans on Saturday, September 28th, from 5:30 to 10:00 at the Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort.

Since AZMOAA is a member of the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce, all Chapter members are entitled to the “member rate” of \$140—a savings of \$25 per ticket.

Would you like to support but cannot attend? Please consider being a Supporting Sponsor. For \$250 you will get your name in the program and fund two seats for a disabled or paralyzed veteran and guest.

Are you a disabled or paralyzed veteran? We would like to recognize you during the program. Please send two pictures: one while in service and one today/after service to t.sheets@swvcc.org.

You can purchase tickets and sponsorships:

- online at <https://swvcc.org/pb>.
- by mailing a check to SWVF, 3820 W. Happy Valley Rd., #141-455, Glendale, AZ 85310.
- at the July 11th Happy Hour.
- by calling Tom Sheets at 602-677-2961.

Please see the adjacent flyer.



The Giant Cactus of Arizona

by Harriet Monroe

The cactus in the desert stands
 Like time's inviolate sentinel,
 Watching the sun-washed waste of sands
 Lest they their ancient secrets tell.
 And the lost lore of mournful lands
 It knows alone and guards too well.

Wiser than Sphinx or pyramid,
 It points a stark hand at the sky,
 And all the stars alight or hid
 It counts as they go rolling by;
 And mysteries the gods forbid
 Darken its heavy memory.

I asked how old the world was—yea,
 And why yon ruddy mountain grew
 Out of hell's fire. By night nor day
 It answered not, though all it knew,
 But lifted, as it stopped my way,
 Its wrinkled fingers toward the blue

Inscrutable and stern and still
 It waits the everlasting doom.
 Races and years may do their will—
 Lo, it will rise above their tomb,
 Till the drugged earth has drunk her fill
 Of light, and falls asleep in gloom.



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.)*

Amount enclosed: \$_____ Please mail check payable to **“AZ Chapter MOAA”** with completed application to Chapter Treasurer: Charles 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 at 10:30am
September 11th, 2024 (Note change)
Papago Park Arizona National Guard Base
5636 E McDowell Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85008

Member Luncheon/Meetings

Third Saturday of each month at 11am
Next Meeting: Sep 21st, 2024
McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Upcoming Events

19 Oct 2024: Annual Chapter BBQ/Picnic



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TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	LEGISLATION Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705	MEMBERSHIP CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN 850-207-9845	WEBMASTER Carl Ulbrich, Jireh Communications
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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org
The *Sentinel* Newsletter is sent electronically

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Phoenix, AZ 85050



azmoaa.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED