



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



Membership Meeting – Saturday, May 20, 2023

11:00 a.m., McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Sheets called the meeting to order.

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

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Miriam Rosa-Cummo.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

Tom announced that he received the award from National MOAA communicating the 2022 Marvin Harris Communications Awards and. Presented it to Lee Lange to add to our AZ MOAA Flag. There are two communication awards: Newsletter and Website. Our chapter received both 5 Stars award.

Tom kicked off the 'new' MOAA Annual Scholarship campaign. Previously the campaign had been a monthly fund-raising effort, however now it will focus on a yearly event culminating in the awarding of the ROTC scholarships that we have each April. The scholarship with a goal of \$3,000. AZ MOAA received 2 additional \$100 donations during this luncheon. The campaign ends this May 31st, 2023.

NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS RECOGNITION:

Tom recognized new members, prospective members and guests.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The General Fund has \$11,331.82 and the Scholarship Fund has \$17,954.61.

Charlie announced that we are now able to accept payments for luncheons via Apple Pay and that we are working on accepting payments and donations by September online through our own AZ MOAA website.

Tom Sheets, as Executive Director of the Southwest Veterans Foundation, presented our Treasurer with a donation check of \$250 for the Scholarship Fund.

SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTATION:

Meritorious Service Award: In memory of Ron Bright, our former Chairman of the Scholarship Fund, Lee Lange presented the National MOAA Meritorious Service award to Ron's wife, Donna Bright. Through Ron Bright's dedication he established an annual JROTC stipend award to cover 15 area JROTC award recipients. Each JROTC nominee was awarded \$50. This program was established within the General Scholarship Fund.

Pete Kloeber, past President of AZ MOAA councils and board member of MOAA National, presented on behalf of National MOAA, the MOAA's Chairman's Award to Lee Lange for Military Leadership and Service over his decades of service to MOAA and its members. Lee Lange served at MOAA National from 2001-2013 as Deputy Director of Government Relations, Director of Government Relations, Director of Council Chapter Affairs and 2nd VP, 1st VP and Chair of Legislative and Personal Affairs.



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CHAPTER MEETING
(con't)

LUNCH SERVED

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Debbie Lee, CEO/Founder of America's Mighty Warriors, will be our May speaker. She is an author, public speaker and political activist who has traveled the nation telling her son's amazing story and advocating for our troops, their families and families of the fallen. Debbie shares this sacrifice in that on Aug 2, 2006 she received the news that her son Marc Alan Lee had been killed in action, becoming the first Navy SEAL killed in Iraq. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that our troops and Gold Star families have access to respite and important services that help assist recovery after injury or loss. She described the variety of programs they provide and assist the veteran personnel in her program. Additionally, she had a table of the books and related items for sale supporting her organization's efforts.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE DRAWING:

Today the scholarship raffle had two \$40 award winners from the membership.

FINAL REMARKS:

Tom thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded everyone that our next General Meeting will be in September.

GOOD OR THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Legislative Action Center Instructions:

Tom asked that we continue to work the MOAA Action Center in supporting current legislative efforts.

Annual Scholarship Fundraising campaign:

The campaign will continue to run through to the end of May next year and everyone has a couple of weeks to contribute up to \$700 to reach our \$3,000 goal.

3rd Quarter Happy Hour (July 12):

AZ MOAA Summer Happy Hour will be held on Wednesday, July 12th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at Maggiano's on N Scottsdale RD. Cost is \$25 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres, no host bar & silent auction. Guests are welcomed!

Freedom is Not Free Packing Party (July 19):

Bruce explained that this is a community project hosted by Youth For Troops and involves volunteers completing various work stations and multiple projects to benefit deployed troops and at-risk Arizona veterans. Projects include decorating boxes for deployed troops, assembling care packages, move-in kits for homeless Veterans transitioning into permanent housing etc. The event happens from 5 – 6:30 PM at Sagewood on E Mayo Blvd.



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D-Backs Baseball Game (July 30):

There is a July 30th Diamondback game at Chase field at 1:30PM for the AZ MOAA chapter members. Ticket price is \$42/seat. Jim Cullison will have more details in the next months.

Memorial Day (May 29)

Tom asked for volunteers to participate in the special day whether serving as color guard or wreath laying. Contact Jim for more information.

NEXT MEETING:

September 16, 2023, at McCormick Ranch
September Duty officer: Jim Cullison

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Carole Litten, Secretary

MOAA™