



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

APRIL 2008

CHARTERED 1956 - 51 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

I hope your Easter was happy and that you are all in good health. If you attended our March luncheon there was a little basket of Easter treats at each place - thanks to our own "Easter Bunny" Marie Fredricks. The lunch entree was very good, followed by a chocolate cake that was great! I would like to thank all of you who took part in the auction of the Phoenix Suns tickets, which were donated by Ron Drew. We raised \$270 for our Chapter scholarship fund.

Now let's get down to work.

Your help is really needed in a couple of areas. [We must stop the 10.6% Medicare/TRICARE cut.](#) Unless Congress acts, we're only three months away from a 10.6% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors. That would dramatically reduce the number of doctors willing to accept military and

Medicare patients. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) has introduced S. 2785, the "Save Medicare Act of 2008", to reverse the cuts and provide a 1.8% increase instead. Please send a MOAA suggested message or a letter urging your senators to cosponsor and pass this critically important bill. You can go to the MOAA web site at

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=11175451> for more info.

Another area where your help is needed: recently, MOAA briefed almost 50 House staffers about DoD proposals to raise health fees for retirees under age 65 including raising copays for prescriptions that would make TRICARE's drug plan worse than half of all civilian plans. To help MOAA fight these disproportionate fee hikes, please take the time to send the tear-out post cards to your legislators included with the March edition of

your Military Officer magazine, which you should have received by now. Feel free to add a handwritten note at the bottom to give your letter an extra punch.

Now some good news. Each year, national MOAA takes time to recognize the councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members during the annual Communication Awards contest. This year's contest drew a record number of entries, which were reviewed carefully by a panel of judges that convened at MOAA's headquarters in February. Each chapter was only allowed to compete in three areas of competition. Looks like we did well! Well Done to our Webmaster Tom Houser and Newsletter



Continued on page 2

Arizona Chapter Calendar

April 3

- BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107

April 19

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

April 25

- Golf Tournament

April 26

- AZ Council of Chapters meeting - Prescott

May 1

- BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107

May 17

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG

Editor Terry Tassin (oh-that's me!). In Chapter Category III (200-299 members) our Print Newsletter *The Sentinel* was the overall Winner! In the Electronic Newsletter category, our E-Newsletter, *Just In Time*, was the overall Winner! My thanks go to Chuck Schluter for coming-up with the name of our e-newsletter when we first started. Our Web Master Tom Houser was recognized as 1st Runner-Up in the Web Site category. I hope you understand the work that goes into keeping the lines of communication open. Next time you see Tom Houser give him some good words - he deserves them.

Two or three volunteers are needed to fill-out our Color Guard for Memorial Day at the national cemetery on Cave Creek Road on May 26th. If you feel up to it, please let me know and I will pass your name to the Color Guard Commander - Tom Houser.

It seems that this issue of the newsletter is full of thanks. Thanks are also extended to our JROTC award volunteer presenters, who have stepped up not only to present our Chapter awards, but also to cover for the Sun Cities Chapter of MOWW in presenting their awards at schools we jointly sponsor. Well Done to you all.

~ Terry Tassin ~

Luncheon Meeting Saturday, April 19 McCormick Ranch Golf Club

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **April 19** at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social hour at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 7 of this newsletter. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is the Thursday before the luncheon. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

Coming Attractions

By Chuck Schluter



April 19: Matt Chitwood is the grandson of a Battle of the Bulge veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Matt's personal research and on the ground tour of Bastogne and the surrounding areas adds flavor to his grandfather's post war meeting with the German soldier who may have caused his wounds.

May 17: If there is one thing that we do, and do well, it's that we support local JROTC programs with both medals and scholarships. Quite frankly we expend a lot of effort on this program, and your attendance at this luncheon means a lot to your staff. Our military legacy demands that we look to the future military leaders, and that's exactly what we are doing. Join us as we present our Scholarship awards and hear testimony from the recipients – these young men and women have been fantastic!

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth and the troops of our country. Since the last newsletter many thanks to the members below for their donations to the:

General Fund (\$0)

None

Scholarship Fund (\$167)

The Worthington's \$25
The Gannon's \$12
Kathy Upchurch \$10
The Birtciel's \$20
Anonymous \$100



Board Meeting Summary

by Ron Perkins, Secretary

The Board of Directors met on March 6, 2008.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: The present status of fund accounts:

General Checking: \$7070.23 Scholarship: \$8483.99 Total Accounts: \$15,554.22

Two sets of Phoenix Suns tickets for auction were donated by Ron Drew and proceeds to go to the scholarship fund.

Legislative: Federal: Gary Fredricks encouraged every member to use the pre-addressed cards to their senators and representative which encourage them to reject imposing unfair increases on military benefits. The pre-addressed cards can be found on the March issue of the Military Officer. **State:** The state budget deficit is forecast to be about \$1.2 billion dollars. However, the veteran's portion is fairly secure except for the hiring freeze which has been applied.

Membership: 165 of 209 members have paid their 2008 dues as of March 6. Dan Conway sent out 37 **Give Me 10** applications to Reserve Officers in the local area. The chapter has received a \$60 check from National Headquarters for the six new members recruited under the **2007 Give Me 10** program.

Newsletter Editor: Jim Cullison has stepped forward and volunteered to be the Sentinel Editor.

Scholarships: Ron Worthington reported that all notification letters have been mailed to the schools. The deadline for receiving applications is 25 March. There is enough Scholarship money to award a total of four scholarships if necessary. Scholarship selection committee consists of Ron Worthington (Chair), Ron Drew, Dan Conway, Chet Baumer and Ron Perkins.

Arrangements: Don Ford will provide entertainment at our October and December luncheons. The cost will be \$225. Dan Conway motioned that we book Don Ford for the mentioned dates and the motion was passed unanimously. It was also proposed the chapter have a silent auction for our October luncheon and a Chinese auction for the December luncheon. The proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

Programs: Terry Tassin reported that our February speaker had asked for feedback on her presentation on "Bullies in the Work Place". Anyone with inputs should send them by email to Chuck Schluter who will consolidate the inputs for Dr. Jean McFarland. The April speaker will be Matt Chitwood who is the grandson of a Battle of the Bulge veteran and Purple Heart Recipient.

Old Business:

AZ National Guard Annual Meeting: Chuck Schluter will follow up on the possibility of our chapter participating with manning an MOAA information booth.

ESGR presentations: Chuck Schluter is the "lead" officer on this matter. Presentations will take place at either the September or October general meeting. The September meeting would be best for the Chapter.

New Business:

Taps: Notice received of the passing of William Toy. A Memorial donation was made in his name to the AZ Veterans Home.

AZ Tax Exemption of Military Retired Pay: Dan Conway reported that the goal of getting the State to eliminate the State Income Tax on the military pensions of veterans is a long way off.

Spring Golf Tournament: April 25 with lots of prizes.

AZ Council of Chapters Meeting: The Tassin's, Fredricks, Schluter's and the Conway's plan to attend.

General Luncheon Meeting Summary

Members Present: Total people present: 45 The following guests were recognized: BGen Wayne Hoffman and his wife Nancy; Bob and Betty Koelin, Ron Marusiak and Sue Gilbertson.

Report on BOD Meeting:

Golf Tournament Update: Pat Dale gave an update on the upcoming golf tournament scheduled for the 25th of April at the Rolling Hills Golf Course. Applications can be found in the February Sentinel and again in the March Sentinel. Deadline for signing up is 16 April.

Legislative Report: Federal: Gary Fredrick asked everyone to use the prepared letters to congressional leaders found in the February and March issues of the Military Officer. These letters ask congressional support to avoid a Defense budget decline and resist pressures to impose disproportional TRICARE fee increases for military retirees. The FY 2009 budget plan is likely to include a DOD task force's recommendations to raise retiree TRICARE fees by \$1000 to \$2000 a year, depending on retired pay level.

Chapter 50/50 raffle: Winners were: \$20 prize won by Judy Draper; \$20 prize won by Gary Fredricks; \$20 prize won by Frank Birtciel

Auction of Phoenix Sun's Tickets: Fran Tassin April 6th game for \$170. Gary Fredricks April 16th game for \$100. All proceeds will go to the scholarship fund

Share a Ride Program!

If anyone requires transportation to an MOAA Luncheon contact Ron Drew at 602-319-4990. Ron will try to have someone pick you up at your residence and return you back home when the luncheon is over and it is free! Ron is often in and out of town so the further in advance you call him to make arrangements the better. Please, don't wait until the last minute to request this support as we may not be able to provide a ride without sufficient notice.



TOPS Tips by Chuck Schluter, TOPS Chair

TOPS Tips are compliments of www.moaa.org, and the plan is to re-publish Common Résumé Mistakes over a period of time in the Sentinel, as room allows.

Common Résumé Mistakes

Many job hunters make the same mistakes over and over again in their résumés. A résumé will not get you a job, but a poorly written résumé can keep you from getting an interview that might lead to a job. Résumés don't have a perfect format, and everyone has an opinion on how to write one. So don't spend too much time trying to write the perfect résumé. More importantly, never pay anyone to write your résumé. You must write your own résumé because you will be the only one at the interview to defend it. Be careful to avoid the five common résumé mistakes people make. These mistakes could make the difference between getting an interview -- and a new job - or having your résumé pitched into the trash can. Continuing our series of résumé writing articles, here is:

Mistake No. 4: Your résumé focuses on positions and jobs you've held instead of results. Many résumés simply list the person's job description and performance objectives but don't list their accomplishments. Employers want to know what you accomplished and how well you executed your responsibilities. State in bullet format your most significant positions and accomplishments as they relate to the job you are seeking. Focus on the last five to eight

years because in today's technical world, system dynamics change so quickly you might date yourself, which could keep an employer from calling you for an interview. An example of a statement that demonstrates results might read, "Responsible for the staff of a large corporation's headquarters and tasked to reduce its structure. Within 60 days, developed and implemented plans that reduced the staff by 30 percent while simultaneously relocating to another region of the country." Another example might be, "Assumed responsibility for the maintenance operations of a large vehicle fleet. Reduced maintenance backlog by 50 percent in the first quarter and increased the overall operational readiness rate to 95 percent for the entire year."

Mistake No. 5: Your résumé has poor substance and format. A cardinal sin in résumé writing is having a misspelled word, followed closely by poorly constructed sentences or verb usage. Write like you talk. That's how most people read and write. If you are using words that are stilted or difficult for you to use, they also will be difficult for the reader and may send up a warning flag. Do not rely on your computer's spell check feature to scan your final product. Read and re-read your résumé, and ask friends to read it before you send it to anyone. Finally, before you mail or e-mail your résumé, call the employer's personnel office and ask for instructions regarding their preferences for transmitting it.



MOAA Name Tags

For anyone needing an Arizona Chapter Name Tag, order forms will be available at each Chapter meeting or you can call Dee Norton at 480-275-5089 to place your order. It is requested that you pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting, they can be mailed to you.

Quote of the Month

"Work as if you were to live 100 Years,
Pray as if you were to die Tomorrow."
-- Benjamin Franklin
(Poor Richard's Almanac, 1757)



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

This month I would like to remind you of a couple of key actions you should be taking. You may well have already read about them in other MOAA media, but they are important enough to deserve repeating.

First, if you have not already done so, find your March edition of the MOAA magazine, *Military Officer*. Tear off the post cards, dealing with DOD proposed TRICARE fee increases, to your Congressmen that encase the cover, sign them, put stamps on them and mail them. They could save you a lot of money.

For the last two years MOAA and others have successfully headed off DOD efforts to substantially raise TRICARE fees. This year DOD is trying to raise them again backed by a congressionally mandated DOD Task Force report. The report recommendations, which were anticipated, would raise TRICARE fees by \$1000 to \$2000 per year depending on your income. MOAA letter/card writing campaigns like the present one have proven in the past to be highly effective with our Congressmen if enough of us actually send them in.

Second, use the MOAA website to send emails to your Congressmen on the Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors issue. You will recall that legislation passed earlier prevented a mandatory cut in these payments from kicking in on January 1. But, the fix was only temporary. Unless Congress acts, we are less than three months away from a 10.6% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors. That would dramatically reduce the number of doctors willing to accept military and Medicare patients. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) has introduced S 2785, the "Save Medicare Act of 2008", to reverse the cuts and provide a 1.8% increase instead. All you have to do is go to www.MOAA.ORG, "Current Legislation", "Health Care Issues", "S-2785" and follow the simple instructions to send the emails. Together we can make a difference.

Scholarship Info

As of this writing, the JROTC scholarship application deadline of 25 March is fast approaching, and we've received only a handful of applications. This despite follow-up letters and 37 phone calls to the senior military advisors at each of the 17 participating high schools. We'll continue our efforts until the suspense date to give more graduating cadets a chance to receive a scholarship to help further their higher education.

The Scholarship Committee this year consists of Chet Baumer, Dan Conway, Ron Drew, Ron Perkins and Ron Worthington. They will meet 9 April to evaluate the applications and establish a list of recommended recipients. These recommendations will then be submitted for approval to the Arizona Chapter Board of Directors at their May meeting. The scholarships will then be awarded later that month at the general membership luncheon meeting. Hope you can all attend.

April Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: April 19, 2008
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
12:00 Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$19.00 - Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: Matt Chitwood is the grandson of a Battle of the Bulge veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Matt's personal research and on the ground tour of Bastogne and the surrounding areas adds flavor to his grandfathers post war meeting with the German soldier who may have caused his wounds.

Reservations need to be received by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon date. Cancellations of reservations need to be received by that same Thursday in order to receive your money back or not be charged for lunch. Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form on page 7.



Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

"Help Your Survivors Now"

There are many things you can do during your lifetime to help your survivors after your death. When planning, it is important to be able to answer such questions as:

- What happens to your personal and real estate property when you die?
- Is your spouse able to write a check on your bank account?
- Does your spouse take title to your automobile?
- What about the insurance on your car?
- What about your fire insurance?
- Do you own stocks or bonds? If so, can your survivors reduce these holdings to cash or otherwise dispose of them? Can your spouse find them? Do your survivors continue to receive your retired pay and if not, when do payments stop?

Unless you have determined the answers to these and other questions, your survivors may not receive all the entitlements for which you have worked so hard

This is a publication which we have stressed before, but following the presentation of General Hoffman at our last luncheon, I believe it important to mention it again. It was of interest that General Hoffman noted that in his own experience, the trauma associated with the loss of a loved one is much reduced if the surviving spouse is aware that survivor planning has been completed.

This publication is available at no cost to members at the MOAA web site which is www.moaa.org. To obtain a copy (with or without email), call MOAA at 1-800-234-6622. Have your Membership Number available, and the publication will be on the way.

Please consider me as an asset, and don't hesitate to call if I can be of assistance in any Personal Affairs matter. Phone 480 368 1427

SUMMER IS ON THE WAY - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

We have a limited number of tickets to the Arizona Broadway Theatre on July 12, 2008 to attend the afternoon performance of *the Music Man*. The price of the ticket is \$47 each which includes the performance and lunch (except drinks & dessert) plus the gratuity. You can reserve your seat now by filling out the reservation form, enclose a check and mail to Marie Fredricks.

JULY 12, 2008
"the Music Man"



The Music Man is a charming tribute to a bygone era in Smalltown, U.S.A. Follow fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize – despite his not knowing a trombone from a treble clef. Meredith Wilson's *the Music Man* is family entertainment at its best.

Reservation Request for the Arizona Broadway Theatre

Name _____

Number of tickets _____

Amount enclosed _____

Make Check to: AZ Chapter MOAA

Mail to: Marie Fredricks
15403 E. Sunburst Dr
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268



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CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.**

General Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ [now a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor : _____ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ___ NO ___

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (**\$19.00** per person) for **19 April 2008**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 17 April 2008**

Send to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-690-1012**

As an affiliate of national MOAA, the AZ Chapter promotes love of our country and the flag; defending the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States; advocating military forces adequate to the defense of our country; fostering fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed Services and their National Guard or reserve components; protecting the rights and interests of active duty, retired, reserve, and National Guard personnel of the uniformed Services and their dependents and survivors; providing useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serving the community and the nation.

The Arizona Chapter - MOAA - 2008 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>

**Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302**



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