

# The Sentinel

# **Arizona's First Chapter**



The Arizona Chapter

read

Thanksgiving is over and

Christmas is yet to come.

I hope you all had a

peaceful day with your

and

sharing a meal together

and giving thanks for

This time of year can

certainly be a little hectic

as we plan for and enjoy

many holiday activities.

thinking about it, turn to

Page 7 in The Sentinel,

extract the reservation

reservation sent in for the

This, of course, will be

year our program will

feature Don Ford doing

what he does best --

providing his wonderful

music for our holiday

enjoyment. In addition to

fine music and good

food, we will enjoy a very

activity that last year we

Auction." Members of the

numerous gifts for your

will

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December 20 meeting.

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your many blessings.

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

DECEMBER 2008

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CHARTERED 1956 - 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



As

friends

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our

Christmas

interesting

called

board

President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

this.

family,

amusement and enjoyment. You really need to come and take

part in this event to believe it.

\* Meritorious Service Awards: Our normal presentation of the annual Meritorious Service Awards was postponed until our December meeting. Many thanks to Ron Drew and his Nomination Committee for a job well done. Their efforts will result in the presentation of Chapter Service Meritorious Awards to Pat and Patricia Dale, Gary and Marie Fredricks, Bill Johnson (posthumous), Perkins, Chuck Ron Schluter, and Terry and Frances Tassin.

\* Picnic in the Park: Our November luncheon was held at Desert Park Breeze Chandler. Forty plus people gathered for a barbecue catered by Famous Dave's. We had of food, lots good conversation, and even played a few games on the grass. It was a grand change of pace.

\* Election of Officers: At our November meeting we held our annual election of officers. The following slate of officers will be installed during our January meeting:

President: Ron Perkins. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Ron Worthington.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Treasurer: Bill Roscher Secretary: **VACANT** Immediate Past President: Terry Tassin Directors: John Ady, Ron Drew, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon and Rob Welch.

Vacancy. Perhaps you noticed the **VACANT** sign for the office of Secretary. We really do need someone to step up and take this job. It is well above and beyond the call of duty for the President to fill both of these positions. Any Regular or Auxiliary member or spouse is eligible to hold the office. Responsibilities include keeping meeting minutes, maintaining the Chapter Roster and helping with general correspondence. If you have an aptitude

# Continued on Page 2

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

#### December 4

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

#### December 20

 General Luncheon Meeting, Il a.m., McCormick Ranch Golf Club, MSA Awards, Holiday Music & Chinese Auction

#### January 8

• BOD meeting, AZ Veteran's Home

#### January 16

 General Luncheon Meeting, Installation of 2009 Officers

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. 2008 Staff

DUES!!

fundraising

"Chinese

provide

DUES!!

**DUES!!** 

**DUES!!** 

**DUES!!** 

## President's Perspective.....continued from page 1

and interest, please give Ron Perkins or me a call.

\* A Time for Sharing: During these difficult economic times it is important to remember those who are less fortunate. If you are looking for a "sharing" idea, here are a few:

St. Mary's / Westside Food Bank Alliance: This year our community food banks have been experiencing a greater demand for services. Food or monetary donations are accepted.

Arizona National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (AERF). The AERF program was set up by the Arizona National Guard to provide emergency assistance to families of Guard and Reserve members called to active duty. Consider a contribution to this fund. A tax deductible gift can be sent to: AER Fund, 5636 E. McDowell Rd., P.O. Box 300, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Christmas distribution will begin on December 15, so send your contribution by December 12.

**Toys for Tots.** This is an annual program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. All toys must be new, unwrapped and still in original boxes. There are many drop locations around the Valley. However, my favorite is the Arizona Broadway Theatre in Peoria because I combine attending can а great performance and dinner with dropping off donations for Toys for Tots. One of the hardest age groups to get toys for is the 9 to 12-year group. If you want to bring a new, unwrapped toy to our December luncheon, I will personally deliver it to the Arizona Broadway Theatre.

\* Renewal of Chapter Membership: Finally, thanks to those of you who have already renewed your Chapter membership for 2009. As a reminder, the Chapter dues will be the same for 2009 as they were for 2008 (\$20 regular and \$10 Auxiliary). Renewals are due on January 1 and are vital in maintaining a viable Chapter and in supporting this newsletter. We sincerely hope that our efforts have earned the support of the rest who have not yet done so. You will find a renewal form on Page 6 in this newsletter.

Fran and I wish you a very merry holiday season and hope to see you all at the December meeting.

### **Welcome New Chapter Members**

# Lt. Col. John J. Nichols, USA (Ret) And wife Kaye

10450 E. Desert Cove Ave. Scottsdale, AZ 85259 Tele: 480-860-5758 Email: jnichols13@cox.net

#### 1st Lt. Hope V. Benedict, USAF (FRM)

P.O. Box 33452 Phoenix, AZ 85067 Tele: 602-522-0714 Email: FrecklesVet@cox.net

#### Lt. Col. Bernie Anderson, USAF (Ret)

P.O. Box 5023 Scottsdale, AZ 85261 Tele: 480-570-1955 Email: bernieand@aol.com

# Maj. Woody W. Floyd, USAF (Ret) And wife Rose Marie

5008 N. 85th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85250 Tele: 480-990-2286

# Lt. Col. Martin Selinfreund, USAF (Ret) And wife Martha

7300 N. Dreamy Draw Dr. #113
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Tele: 602-708-7578
Email: martinsel@cox.net

# Maj. Roger G. Longenbach, USAF (Ret) And Wife Patti

7605 E. Casa Grande Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85258 Tele: 480-664-2252 Email: rglongenbach@cox.net

#### Sue Gilbertson, Auxiliary

3023 E. Pershing Phoenix, AZ 85032 Tele: 602-867-0310 Email: sqilbertson@cox.net

Please take a moment to meet and greet these new members of our Chapter.



# AZ CHAPTER MOAA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 20, 2008



McCORMICK RANCH GOLF CLUB

11:00 AM ... SOCIAL HOUR 12:00 NOON ... LUNCH
Join us for our last meeting of the year!

DON FORD, on keyboard, will entertain us with our favorite
CHRISTMAS MUSIC

### **Meritorious Service Awards will be presented to:**

Pat Dale, Patricia Dale, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Bill Johnson, Ron Perkins, Chuck Schluter, Terry Tassin, Fran Tassin

We will have a special Chinese Auction with gifts you will all want to win with your Raffle tickets!

Send your reservation slip (included on Page 7 of *The Sentinel*) and a check to: Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr, Phoenix AZ 85050

The cost for the luncheon is \$19 and reservations must be made by December 18.

BRING A FRIEND AND/OR A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



#### **Personal Affairs**

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

We all know that our survivor will need a certified death certificate for all sorts of business including Social Security and Veteran's survivor benefits, bank account access, payment of life insurance policies, etc. It is recommended to order up to 20 copies to meet typical needs.

What I didn't know is that it usually takes 4 to 7 weeks to obtain the required certificates. The certificate is prepared by the funeral home, signed by the doctor, and forwarded to the County Office of Vital Records for recording. No copies are available until the recording is complete.

This means that your surviving spouse has to be prepared for this 4-7 week delay. The first step is to have a joint checking account or savings account with sufficient funds to pay for a funeral and living expenses for two months. Another recommendation is for each of you to have a separate survival account which would

be available to meet those needs. I learned that even joint accounts can sometimes be a problem if the bank learns that one of the parties has died. One way to prevent this is to not notify the bank until you have the death certificate and you remove the deceased party from the account. Then it is advisable to add one of your children to the account to be prepared for the next death.

I wish I had a more joyful message for this time of year. I have to hope that those who heed this message will save their survivors grief and hardship following unplanned events over which we have no control, but which we know will occur for each of us.

# Give me 10!

The latest report shows we have recruited 11 new National members during 2008, which means we receive \$10 for each new member and a \$100 bonus. Special thanks to those who converted to life memberships, which count as new National members.

# Coming Attractions By Chuck Schluter



### **November Board and Member Meeting Summaries**

#### Board of Directors, 6 November.

Treasurer's Report: checking: \$7,681.86, scholarship: \$9,742.30, total: \$17,424.16. Bill Roscher was appointed treasurer due to the recent passing of Bill Johnson. A resolution was passed giving the secretary access to bank accounts as a backup to the treasurer. The treasurer was authorized to maintain a \$100 petty cash account to make change at monthly luncheons.

Board members agreed to donate toward flowers from the Chapter for Bill Johnson's funeral in New York.

Terry Tassin reported he received 9 names to date from National in the yearend recruiting drive.

Dan Conway expressed the importance of the MOAA Personal Affairs Workbook, which can be obtained by phone or email from National. He also briefed on the assistance given to Bill Johnson's spouse, Nina, by the Chapter.

The board agreed to continue the summer outings at the Arizona Broadway Theatre. Marie Fredricks will make arrangements for a July 12, 2009, outing.

The board agreed to continue supporting the Arizona National Guard Emergency Relief Fund.

Ron Perkins reported National wants more emphasis on local recruiting and retention. About 290,000 members are not affiliated with a local chapter.

Member Luncheon, 15 November.

Total of 41 present – 23 members and spouses, 2 guests.

A memorial service will be held for Bill Johnson on December 6. (See information below.)

Terry Tassin suggested donations to the Arizona National Guard Family Assistance Program and Toys for Tots. (More information in Terry's Perspective column, pages 1-2.)

Terry reminded that 2009 membership renewals are due by January 1. Dues remain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for Auxiliary members.

Officers were elected for 2009. No floor nominations were made. See below for roster of new officers and directors. The secretary position is still vacant.

The 50/50 raffle raised \$64 for the scholarship fund and paid \$20 each to raffle winners Doug Gray, Nick Sliger and John Ady.

The catered luncheon at Desert Breeze Park was excellent. Many thanks to Marie Fredricks for making arrangements.

**December 20:** Christmas luncheon and holiday music by Don Ford. You will enjoy the board-hosted "Chinese Auction," so bring your smile and join the fun.

**January 17:** Installation of officers for 2009.

February 21: Our guest speaker will be Vickie Mullens, author of the "I Want You to Know Me" series. Every Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa can create a powerful family legacy by recognizing how to create the priceless "gift of yourself" to your loved ones.

March 21: Our guest speaker will be Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell. Chief Rodbell is a distinguished law enforcement officer whose background a n d experiences will provide a provocative presentation.

#### **TAPS**

We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

### Major William J. Johnson USAF (Ret)

March 20, 1957 - November 2, 2008

Our heart felt condolences are extended to the family.

A memorial service for Bill Johnson will be held December 6 at Shadow Mountain Mortuary on the corner of Greenway and Cave Creek Roads, 2350 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix, (602) 971-7350. The service starts at 2 p.m.

# **AZ Chapter Staff for 2009**

The following members will be sworn-in as Chapter Officers at the January General meeting:

President: Col Ronald Perkins, USAF 1st VP: Col Ron Worthington, USAF

2nd VP: Col Bill Roscher, USA
Secretary: POSITION IS AVAILABLE
Treasurer: Col Bill Roscher, USA
Director: Col John Ady, USAR
Director: Maj Ronald Drew, USAF
Director: Lt Col Ron Green, USAF
Director: BG Richard Maxon, ARNG

Director: Col Rob Welch, USA

Please plan to attend and wish these dedicated volunteers success in guiding the Chapter.



### **Legislative Update**

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

In November I had the pleasure of joining the MOAA Board of Directors for a six-year term at a meeting in Arlington, Virginia. The MOAA staff did a magnificent job of packaging a great amount of material into a very concise and intense meeting. In addition to the normal committee and board meetings. the event included the membership meeting, the Chairman's Dinner with keynote speaker Sen. Jim Webb, a "Military Professional's Symposium" featuring remarks by Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Gen. James E. Cartwright and a panel that included four threeand a MOAA spouse stars. panel "Mentoring Tomorrow's Military Spouse."

I couldn't begin to capture the essence of all the meetings in this short article, but I would like to offer some highlights. This marked the final event in Chuck Schluter's six-year term as director. As the meetings proceeded it was obvious just how much Chuck has contributed over his term and how well thought of he is both by the board and the MOAA staff. I can only add my thank you to Chuck for his outstanding service to MOAA.

I was equally impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm exhibited by the board members and the whole MOAA staff. We are fortunate to have the MOAA staff working our front lines in the Washington arena. We have a sound and welldocumented strategy in place both for the short term and the longer one with a well thought out set of goals and action plans for 2009. In these uncertain times all companies and organizations are experiencing significant financial strains, and MOAA is not immune to these pressures. A few budget reductions are in place for the coming year, but they should not significantly impact our programs. Thanks to the foresight of their predecessors and the insight of the current board and staff, I can report that MOAA is in very sound financial shape.

Having said that, no one is claiming that things will be easy. Gaining and retaining membership will be key to MOAA's ability to produce results and sustain momentum. The common theme presented by our military professionals is that for the foreseeable future the U.S. will experience a

period of "persistent conflict" that will tax our military's ability to sustain operations. At the same time, bailing out our economy will be a priority while history says that with the Iraqi conflict winding down, there will be extreme pressures on the defense budget to reap the benefits of some undefined "peace dividend." The military consensus was that whatever that budget turns out to be, it will need to be stretched and balanced among weapon system, operational and personnel costs.

The MOAA mission, of course, will continue to be focused on the last of these three elements. The clear message from MOAA is that strong grassroots support is absolutely essential if we are to maintain what we have gained and continue to make progress on our goals. A large part of that support is continuing to send emails, write letters and make calls to Congress as we have done in the past. We represent a sizeable constituency, and we need to continue to make our voices heard.

#### **December Luncheon Meeting**

WHEN: December 20, 2008

11:00 a.m.

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club

7505 McCormick Parkway

Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$19.00 Per Person

**DRESS:** Casual

**MENU**: Really Good Food

**PROGRAM**: Presentation of Chapter Meritorious Service Awards, holiday music, Chinese auction.

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 Roscher using the Meal/Meeting reservation form on page 7.

### **AZ Chapter MOAA Membership Renewal Notice**

Thank you for your AZ Chapter support during 2008. Your support for our chapter has helped provide the basis for our scholarship program for outstanding valley area JROTC students; for our efforts to represent you on state and local legislative issues; for our actions, including our award winning *Sentinel*, to keep you involved and informed on these and broader issues affecting our military and retired community, and for our schedule of activities promoting camaraderie and friendship.

For most members, this serves as your notice that AZ Chapter dues for 2009 are due on January 1, 2009, and are delinquent 60 days thereafter. Here's how you can tell if you owe dues. Look on the mailing label if you received your Sentinel by USPS. After your last name is a number – if it is **08**, your dues are due for 2009. A higher number indicates you have paid your dues in advance. Members that only receive the *Sentinel* by email have received an electronic notification. If you disagree, please let us know.

#### **ATTENTION AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

A reminder to all auxiliary members that it is time to renew your annual dues of \$10. It is very important that you continue your membership in order to stay abreast of legislative issues that affect all of us.

Auxiliary members continue to enjoy benefits, such as Tricare for Life and the phasing out of the Survivors Benefit Plan age-62 annuity reduction. We are grateful to all who made that possible.

AZ CHAPTER MOAA C/O Terry Tassin 4333 W. Echo Lane Glendale, AZ 85302



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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 Roscher, 4337 E. Sand	Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050. Phone 480-948-3609, e-mail: wroscher@cox.net				
General Fund: \$					
Scholarship Fund: \$	[now a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]				
Name of Donor :	ldentify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES NO				
<u>M</u>	EAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM				

Please reserve\_\_\_\_\_ meals for (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(\$19.00 per person) for 20 December 2008 Enclosed is my check for \$ Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **18 December 2008** No Later Than:

Send to: Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050. Phone 480-948-3609, e-mail: wroscher@cox.net.





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