

# The Sentinel

# **Arizona's First Chapter**



The Arizona Chapter

Let me be the first to

summer break. I hope you

enjoyed your break. I know

I did except for the heat.

But now it's back to work.

and I have several items I

**Theatre outing.** You can

read about our July 12

outing

Arizona Broadway Theatre

elsewhere in this Sentinel.

However, Marie Fredricks

is to be congratulated again

for her excellent efforts in

putting together this great

event. I really enjoyed The

Music Man, and I believe

our 37 other members and

guests in attendance also

had a good time. I just wish

more of you had been able

to participate.

three

back everyone

**Broadway** 

to

the

month

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

SEPTEMBER 2008

our

would like to cover.

Arizona

Chapter

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



welcome

from

President's **Perspective** by Terry Tassin

MSA, please submit his or her name the to MSA committee.

Read more about this program on the next page.

September Our luncheon meeting will be something special. Our Chapter has been honored with selection to serve as the host for the Arizona Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Awards Luncheon. Every year the ESGR honors selected for employers their support of the troops who are called to duty. This should be an interesting event and I hope many of you will be able to attend.

And a final word about meetings: Just a headsup that our November 15 meeting location has been changed, so please make a note of this on your calendars. Because of a schedulina McCormick Ranch Golf Club we needed to find a different location for the November luncheon. Many of us have been talking in the past about having at least different kind of luncheon, something that would get us out of the club house and out into the open air.

This scheduling conflict gives us the opportunity for this to take place during one of the nicest months of the year in the Our November Vallev. 15 luncheon will take the form of a picinc at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler. It is a little farther south than we are used to meeting. However, this was the only nice park where we could reserved facilities. All the other closer parks we considered were already booked.

Right now we have a Ramada reserved for November 15 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. This will be a catered buffet meal. There are horseshoe pits and Ron Perkins has

Continued on Page 2

#### **Editor's Note**

As I take over Sentinel editor duties from Terry Tassin, I'd like to thank Terry on behalf of the Chapter for his dedication and talent in making the Sentinel a valuable communication resource and an award-winning publication. He's a tough act to follow, but I'll do my best.

Jim Cullison

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

#### September 4

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

#### September 5

 Fall golf tournament, Painted Mountain Golf Club, Mesa

#### September 20

 General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

#### October 2

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

#### October 18

General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

#### In this Issue

#### Page 2

- Meritorious Service Awards
- New Members
- Nominating Committee
- Theater Recap

#### Page 3

- ESGR Awards
- Board Notes
- **Upcoming Programs**

- Scholarship Awards
- JROTC Medal Awards

#### Page 5

- Legislative Update
- Luncheon Meeting

#### Page 6

- Personal Affairs
- TOPS Tips
- Taps

#### Page 7

 Meal Reservation & **Donation Forms** 

#### Page 8

- Staff 2008
- Give Me 10!

Chapter **Meritorious** Service Award nominations. It is once more time for each of us to consider nominating deserving Arizona Chapter members for Meritorious Service Awards (MSA). Please review what each member has contributed to the chapter in the past year and if you have someone you think is deserving of an

conflict at

# President's Perspective.....continued

offered to provide the horseshoe equipment. So plan on coming out and having fun at an old fashioned picnic!

Our Chapter continues its tradition of excellence with the notification I received from National MOAA. It stated that the Arizona Chapter had been selected for the 4th consecutive year as a recipient of the 5 Star Levels of Excellence Award. This award reflects the exceptional performance of our Chapter in promoting the Arizona Chapter and National MOAA goals, and our active involvement in the community. The special "5 Star Streamer" will be presented to us later. I offer a hearty "Bravo Zulu" (Well Done) to all those members of our Chapter who made this award possible.

With the return of monthly meetings, I look forward to seeing you all on September 20.

# **Welcome to New Chapter Members**

# CWO3 Daniel Vass USN (Ret) and wife Sandy

10034 N. 40th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85051 Tele: 602-368-4847

Email: dmvass@cox.net

# Major Robert W. Kimberlin ARGN And wife Sandy

8338 E. Via de la Luna Scottsdale, AZ 85258 Tele: 480-807-6034

Email: Robert.kimberlin@us.army.mil

# Lt. Col. Scott A. Westley USA (Ret)

4811 N. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85014 602-690-2571

Email: swestley@cox.net

# **Auxiliary Member Clare Gannon**

5630 N. 78th Place Scottsdale, AZ 85250 Tele: 480-945-0385 Email: mikg@agannon.us

## **MSA Nominations Wanted**

By Ron Drew

Our outstanding Chapter members deserve recognition. A good way to do that is to submit a name for a Meritorious Service Award.

If you submit a nominee, if necessary, we will help you draft the citation to accompany the award. Just submit your nomination to one of the Rons — Drew, Green or Worthington.

Remember, you can name a member, spouse or auxiliary member for this award. The committee would like to get the nominees' names as soon as possible so we can complete the task by late September or early October for the presentations at the November meeting. The committee needs your input ASAP so we can get started.

# **Help Your Chapter!!**

The Nominating Committee for 2009 Chapter Officers has found volunteers to fill <u>almost</u> all the officer positions — except one. We still need a volunteer to run for Secretary. Also, we would like another volunteer to assist Treasurer Bill Johnson.

This is an opportunity to become involved in Chapter activities and help plan the future direction of our organization. If interested in either position, please contact Ron Perkins; 480-961-8632 or rbperkins@cox.net.

## July Theatre Outing Recap by Marie Fredricks

On July 12 our Arizona Chapter sponsored the second annual outing to the Arizona Broadway Theatre, where 38 members, family and friends enjoyed an upbeat performance of *The Music Man*. Everyone had good seats in a beautiful setting for this fine afternoon.

For those who missed it — and for everyone who attended — watch for news on next year's outing so you can plan to attend. If members would like to do this again next July, the performance scheduled then is "Bye Bye Birdie."

# September Luncheon Special Event: ESGR Civilian Employer Awards

This month, our Chapter will host members of the Arizona Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Committee and our special guests, selected civilian employers of National Guard or Reserve Component military members. Chapter President Terry Tassin and the Arizona Chairman for ESGR, Scott Essex, will present awards to employers who have been nominated by their currently serving National Guard or Reserve Component member employees.

The ESGR is a Department of Defense agency whose mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support and increasing awareness of the law.

The awardees include the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office; Intel Corp., Cox Communication, Bank of America, Arizona Department of Economic Security and Arizona Department of Water Resources. Recipients will be accompanied by the service members who submitted the nomination for the "Patriot" award and for the "Above and Beyond" awards.

Civilian employers play a critical role in the nation's defense by complying with employment laws and protecting the rights of workers who serve in Reserve components. Without employers the Guard and Reserves could not exist. The nation's Reserve components comprise about 48 percent of our total available military manpower. Today, 92,000 Guard and Reserve soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen serve side by side with their active duty brethren. These G/R members are neighbors, folks we see everyday, in sales or service, blue collar, white collar, first-responder -- caring patriots. Ultimately, these men and women represent a crucial element of our national defense. And it is their civilian employers who enable them to serve in our Reserves and National Guard.

As patriots in our own right, let's support Guard and Reserve members by supporting their employers and the ESGR Committee on September 20.



#### <u>Board Meeting Summary</u> by Ron Perkins, Secretary

The Board met on May 1, 2008

**Treasurer's Report:** General Checking: \$8,237.62; Scholarship: \$11,242.43; Total Accounts: \$19,480.05.

**Membership:** 182 members have paid their 2008 dues. We lost 31 members through 28 non-renewals and 3 deceased members.

**Scholarships:** The board approved the 4 JROTC cadet names presented by Ron Worthington for the \$1,000 scholarship awards. **Old Business:** 

**Chapter Articles of Incorporation:** Gary Fredricks found copies of the Chapter Articles of Incorporation at the Arizona Corporate Commission. They will be sent to National for record keeping.

**Spring Golf Tournament:** There were 56 participants, making \$1,207 for the scholarship fund. The fall tournament will be Sept. 5. **New Business:** 

**AZ Council of Chapters Meeting:** Terry Tassin gave a brief report . **Nominating Committee:** Ron Perkins (Chair), Gary Fredricks and Chuck Schluter volunteered to work on nominees for 2009 officers.

**MSA Committee:** Ron Drew (Chair), Ron Worthington and Ron Green volunteered to work on nominations for the MSA.

# Coming Attractions By Chuck Schluter



**September 20:** Employer Support for Guard/Reserve (ESGR) awards luncheon to recognize local employers.

**October 18:** Oktoberfest, music by Don Ford, dancing and a silent auction.

November 15: Special Event! The Chapter will host a barbeque picnic, present our 2008 Chapter Meritorious Service Awards and elect our officers for 2009. This special event will be catered by the renowned folks from Famous Dave's Bar-B-Q in the beautiful Desert Breeze Park in Chandler.

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

January 17: Installation of officers for 2009. Tentative guest speaker is Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell.

Note: Due to the success of our "Chinese Auction" last Christmas, we will be having another one this year. Last year the board of directors furnished wrapped gifts for the auction. Lots of people said they would like to volunteer for next year. We would like about 15 volunteers to bring a wrapped gift for the auction. Just let Marie Fredricks know if you would like to volunteer!

# **Scholarship Awards**

## By Ron Worthington

Chapter MOAA awards The Arizona scholarships each year to several graduating JROTC cadets from applicants from high schools. With competing these scholarships, we hope to further the education of students who have maintained a scholastic position in the upper half of his or her class and who demonstrate qualities of leadership, good moral character and concern for his or her fellow men and women through service to others.

This year, the Scholarship Committee received applications from 10 extremely well qualified cadets. Using a matrix of five attributes including grade point average and extracurricular activities, the Committee graded the 10 individuals and chose the four best qualified to receive \$1,000 cash scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded at the May Chapter luncheon meeting to the following recipients:

Cadet Jonathan Porter of Sandra Day O'Conner High School is a member of the National Honor Society and an Eagle Scout. He will use his scholarship to defray startup costs at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

**Cadet Tyler Skomp** of Central High School was Class Valedictorian and an AP scholar. He will apply his scholarship toward initial uniform costs at the U.S. Military Academy.

Cadet Alexandra Sanchez of Cortez High School was Cadet Commanding Officer and attended Glendale Community College while finishing high school. She will attend Arizona State University majoring in Social Work.

Cadet Craig Brewster of Cactus High School was Cadet Commander and active in the JROTC flight training program. He will attend Northern Arizona University.

The Arizona Chapter is pleased to help these fine cadets further their education, and we wish them the best in the future.



Terry Tassin (left) and Ron Worthington flank the scholarship award winners, from left, Jonathan Porter, Tyler Skomp, Alexandra Shanchez and Craig Brewster.

### **JROTC Medal Awards 2008**

by Terry Tassin

I wish to thank each of our chapter's award presenters for their efforts in presenting JROTC certificates and medals to the 17 high schools on behalf of the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America before we went on summer break. Extra thanks go to those presenters who represented not only MOAA but also the Sun Cities Chapter of MOWW through the presentation of their awards.

The following letter of appreciation was received in July from Cadet Jonathan Porter of the Sandra Day O'Connor High School AFJROTC Unit. "Dear Col Dale, I know I thanked you at the scholarship awards ceremony, but I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the extra \$20 you gave me for books in college. It meant a lot to me. I also would like to thank you for the wonderful example you set for my AFJROTC unit as you presented your medal awards at the Sandra Day O'Connor High School awards night. Thank you again. Cadet Jonathan Porter, Sandra Day O'Connor High School AFJROTC Unit"



# Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Welcome back from our summer break. I hope you enjoyed the time as much as we have. As we speak, legislative activity at the state level is pretty much over for the year, whereas the federal level is still a work in progress.

The Arizona state legislature adjourned for the year on June 27. They and the Governor managed to deal with revenue shortfalls to both the FY2008 and FY2009 budgets without adversely affecting veterans, as we had requested. The only veterans-related bill we were watching that did not pass was SB1169, which would have made some technical changes to the Military Family Relief Fund law. It came close enough to making it through that I believe it will be revived and passed next year.

Although not technically a legislative action, we did have a significant related event over the summer. Our own chapter member Gregg Maxon retired as Director, Arizona Department of Veterans Services, and a new director was appointed by the Governor. We congratulate Gregg on a job well done and look forward to continuing to work closely with him, only this time at the chapter level. The newly appointed Director of Arizona Veterans Services is Col. Joey Strickland, a retired Army veteran with over 29 years of active service. Although he has family ties in Arizona, he comes to us from Louisiana, where he held high level positions in that state's Veterans Services Department. While there he was, among other things, responsible for establishing four new state veterans' homes and a new military cemetery. He is a very dynamic gentleman, and I also look forward to working with him.

The federal legislature is due to return from their August summer break on September 8, with the House of Representatives well ahead of the Senate in taking action on major bills as usual. Among the major bills still in process are the FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill and the FY2009 Military Construction-VA Funding Bill. We will be reporting on these bills over the coming months.

**For now**, I would like to note how important each of us is to the effort. MOAA reports that so far this year almost 277,000 messages have been sent to Congress on a variety of issues through MOAA's web site. This is why we are able to have success on Capitol Hill.

Among the issues still out there, mostly associated with the Defense Authorization Bill, that we will be asked to lend our voices to are eliminating the offset of retired pay by VA disability compensation, ending unfair deductions in benefits for survivors of disabled service members, improving retirement benefits for the Guard and Reserve, securing career enhancement support for spouses, improving PCS payments, and avoiding disproportionate TRICARE fee hikes for retirees under age 65.

## **September Luncheon Meeting**

WHEN: September 20, 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**: Presentations to Employer Support of Guard and Reserve award recipients.

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

#### As I See It

I see three principal responsibilities as your Personal

Affairs Representative. The first is to keep current on Veteran benefits and to keep our membership informed as well. The second is to encourage our members to keep their military and personal affairs current so that in the event of death or disability of a member or spouse, our families will know what to do. The third is to provide individual assistance to members and spouses in time of need. Please consider me a resource in these areas. My phone is 480-368-1427.

**Relative to the first item,** I have been asked to get out the word that Dependent Spouses are eligible for care at the Arizona Veterans home. While there has been some negative publicity about this facility, those who are familiar with the home are all in agreement that it is among the best, if not the best, long term care facility in the area. We hope that none of you are in need of such care, but if the time comes, please check it out.

**Relative to the second item,** I recently updated my survivor information after 5 years. When realizing all the changes required, I determined that 5 years is too long. If you haven't done this, make sure that you request the MOAA publication "Help Your Survivors Now." Just call MOAA at 1-800-234-6622. Have your Membership Number ready, and the publication will soon be on the way.

Also relative to the second item, I ask each of you to check your dependent's Military ID card. I hope that you won't be as surprised as I recently was to find that it had expired. We got it renewed in time to avoid any interruption in benefits. It took over two hours at Luke without an appointment. For an appointment, call 623-856-8970.

**Relative to the third item,** please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns.



## **TOPS Tips**

by Chuck Schluter, TOPS Chair

Earlier this year, MOAA National asked all MOAA members, "are you willing to be a Network Point of Contact." Kelly Galvin (Capt USA, Green Valley) decided to build a special website for MOAA TOPS. The intent was to provide local networking contacts for MOAA members and families in career transition. A second goal was to strengthen Chapter/Council programs by introducing potential new members to local Chapters, and lastly, to strengthen ties with employers and community leaders to showcase the added value of hiring a veteran.

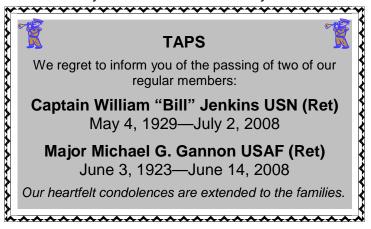
Kelly felt that MOAA provides a wealth of information, services, and resources for job seekers. And, he felt that the service was even better with a State Networking Program. He built a website, http://moaatopsaz.org, as a focused portal for Arizona job listings and networker contacts. New Arizona Chapter member LTC Scott Westley (USA Ret) has volunteered to lend Kelly a hand.

Today, the Arizona TOPS Network has nearly 40 business and industry executives and other professionals who will routinely provide notices of job op-

portunities to the TOPS database. Networking contacts nationwide also can be accessed via the networking page on MOAA's career center website (http://moaa.org/serv/serv\_career/index.htm).

If you can add to the program, please contact MOAA and volunteer to be a Networker. If you are aware of job listings or other opportunities, please submit your input to the TOPS team. Contact <a href="mailto:coord@moaatopsaz.org">coord@moaatopsaz.org</a> to add your input.

Kelly, a former National Guard Officer, was recalled to Active Duty last month, and Scott will fill the gap. We wish Kelly well and look forward to his return. TOPS is going strong thanks to willing leaders like Kelly Galvin and Scott Westley.





# WITHOUT AN ESTATE PLAN, YOU PUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE WORKED FOR AT RISK.

Most people believe a will is all they need to protect their assets after they're gone. Unfortunately, that just isn't enough. But with a living trust from MHK, you can protect your family from risks such as:

- Probate involving a court proceeding pertaining to the distribution of your assets, making private matters public record.
- A lack of complete control over the distribution of your assets.
- A loss of tax benefits when a trust does not include the advantages
  of Arizona community law. If you have a trust set up in another
  state or if you have not reviewed your trust in over two years it
  needs to be reviewed.

Receive a complimentary one-hour consultation with one of our attorneys to create or review your current estate plan – a \$300 value!

Make your plan. Protect what you've earned. Call MHK now at 602-249-1328

# **MHK**

MORRIS, HALL & KINGHORN, P.L.L.C.

ARIZONA'S PREMIER ESTATE PLANNING LAW FIRM
3300 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 900 PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012

# Your Prescription. Our Mission.



# Taking command of your prescriptions may be the easiest order you ever followed.

Get dinner brought to your door and you'll pay a delivery charge. Same way with groceries. But that scenario changes with the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy: You actually save money with Home Delivery on the cost of prescriptions you take regularly.

You'll save on copayment costs by ordering fewer refills throughout the year. For the cost of only one copayment, you receive up to a 90-day supply\* of your medication with free shipping by standard mail.

Get your prescription mail-order form at www.express-scripts.com/ TRICARE or call toll-free **1.866.DOD.TMOP** (1.866.363.8667) and start saving immediately.





\*The DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to <a href="www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/tmop.ofm">www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/tmop.ofm</a>.

© 2007 Express Scripts, Inc. All Rights Reserved DD007-40752

	CHAPTER	FINANC	CIAI PARTIC	CIPATION
--	---------	--------	-------------	----------

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the and mail to: <b>Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, F</b>		check identified as the appropriate fund
General Fund: \$		
Scholarship Fund: \$	[now a 501(c)(	3) charitable fund]
Name of Donor :	Identify me as a donor ir	n the next newsletter. YES NO
MEAL / ME	ETING RESERVATION FORM	1
Please reserve meals for (Name)		
Enclosed is my check for \$	( <b>\$19.00</b> per person) fo	or 20 September 2008
Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA	No Later Than:	18 September 2008

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

# Give Me 10!

By Dan Conway

Good news! We currently have 9 in our Give Me 10! effort, 4 new and 5 who upgraded to life membership. I also have a promise of one more with several applications outstanding, so we should make our target of 10. Thanks to all who upgraded their membership.



PRESIDENT		NEWSLETTER EDITOR		CHAPLAIN	
LCDR Terry Tassin USN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	623-931-1546	LTC Jim Cullison USAF ADVERTISING	602-482-3838	LTC Bob Rutherford USA PERSONAL AFFAIRS	602-944-4224
Col Ron Worthington USAF	480-945-4015	LTC Jim Cullison USAF	602-482-3838	CAPT Dan Conway USCGR	480-368-1427
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT		ELECTRONIC COMMUNICAT	TIONS	PROGRAMS	
Col Ronald Perkins USAF	480-961-8632	LCDR Terry Tassin USN	623-931-1546	COL Charles Schluter, USA	480-563-8480
SECRETARY		HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPH	ER	ARRANGEMENTS	
Col Ronald Perkins USAF	480-961-8632	LtCol Frank Birtciel USAF	480-945-2824	Marie Fredricks	480-836-8419
TREASURER		JROTC AWARDS		SCHOLARSHIPS	
Maj Bill Johnson USAF	602-690-1012	LCDR Terry Tassin USN	623-931-1546	Col Ron Worthington USAF	480-945-4015
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT		LEGISLATIVE		TOPS LIAISON	
CAPT Dan Conway USCGR	480-368-1427	Col Gary Fredricks USAF	480-836-8419	COL Charles Schluter, USA	480-563-8480
DIRECTORS		MEMBERSHIP		WEB MASTER	
Charles Schluter; Ronald Dr	ew; Chester	CAPT Dee Norton USCG	480-275-5089	Capt Tom Houser, USAF	602-697-3123
Baumer; Ronald Green; Ga	ry Fredricks	AUXILIARY LIASION		SHARE A RIDE	
		Sheila George	623-242-6579	Maj Ronald Drew, USAF	602-493-8806

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

