

Minutes of the January 2010 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on January 16, 2010 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 11:57 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation

Members Present: Total people present: **53**; 52 members & 1 guest.

Reports:

StandDown: After introductions, Ron Perkins gave a brief overview of the upcoming StandDown event to help homeless veterans. Sign-up sheets were available at each table to volunteer for one or more shifts. Volunteers will be contacted with logistics and additional details for the event which is estimated to help about 1,000 homeless vets this year.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$7,133.04 and the Scholarship fund is at \$11,897.43 for a total of \$19,030.47.

JROTC Medals: Terry Tassin is on track organizing the presentations and will include a list of the schools and presenters in the next issue of *The Sentinel* and if needed, a request for additional presenters.

Membership Drive: John Ady is working with a committee to increase our chapter membership by 10% in 2010.

Give Me Ten: Dan Conway discussed the *Give Me Ten* campaign to recruit new members for National MOAA. He has membership kits available, encouraging each of us to sign up new members. As an incentive, one recruiter will be selected to receive a \$1,000 award from National MOAA at the end of the year. In addition, our chapter receives \$10 to our general fund for each new member we enroll.

Arrangements & Programs: Chuck Schluter is scheduling a group tour of the Boeing helicopter plant for February 20th which will be limited to 30 participants. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last about two hours leaving plenty of time to drive to McCormick Ranch for our luncheon meeting which will begin 30 minutes later: social hour 11:30 a.m., luncheon 12:30 p.m. Ron Perkins invited anyone interested to sign-up today. If the tour is canceled or rescheduled, everyone will be notified of changes. Ron announced Marie Fredricks negotiated our luncheon meetings to continue through 2010 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club with no price increase.

Legislative Report: Ron Perkins will be e-mailing members with a call to action on four items to: protect military/VA beneficiaries under health reform, prevent a 21% TRICARE/Medicare payment cut, repeal Medicare therapy caps, & reverse unfair Medicare premium hikes. Your e-mails to our legislators and senators can make a difference.

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AUSA Awards Luncheon: Rance Farrell provided information on the February 7th annual awards luncheon to honor outstanding soldiers. Qubad Talabani, son of Iraq president Jalal Talabani, will be the special guest speaker. Rance provided flyers and sign-up forms for anyone interested in attending.

AZ Veterans' Service Advisory Commission: Ron Perkins was notified that three positions are available on the commission. Gary Fredericks is currently on the commission but our chapter can have up to two members participate. Ron asked that anyone interested in serving, please contact Ron and he will submit your name as a candidate.

Passports & "Green" Cards: Our guest speaker, Neville Cramer, passed around a variety of passports and green cards to review during lunch in preparation for his presentation.

Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Neville Cramer: Ron Perkins introduced guest speaker Neville Cramer, retired Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Special Agent. Neville served more than 26 years as a law enforcement officer with the INS. He has written a couple books on immigration addressing problems and suggesting solutions. Neville began by complimenting all soldiers and veterans of the United States for everything they have given to our nation. His presentation was both entertaining and informative. He recently returned from Yemen and discussed its strategic importance. Yemen is an impoverished nation with a majority of its population addicted to a drug called khat (pronounced cot), which is typically taken daily. He explained it is a national drug problem that needs to be dealt with. Neville distributed a list of immigration terms and discussed past and current bills addressing border security, employer sanctions, and amnesty for guest workers. There was a stimulating question and answer period and his book, *Immigration Chaos*, was available for sale following the meeting.

Induction of 2010 Officers: Terry Tassin installed the officers for the 2010 term:
President – Ron Perkins, 1st VP – Gregg Maxon, 2nd VP – John Ady, Secretary – Beth Cullison,
Treasurer – Bill Roscher

Directors: Ron Green, Dan Conway, Kathy Upchurch, Rob Welch, & Ron Worthington

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$160 with \$80 going to the foundation; eight prizes were awarded: four \$5, two \$10 and two \$20 for a total of \$80 awarded.

2010 Dues: Ron Perkins reminded those who have not paid, to pay their 2010 dues now to Bill Roscher, Treasurer.

Boeing Tour: Ron Perkins said anyone interested should sign up now for the February tour.

Adjournment: 2:10 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Secretary