



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

NOVEMBER 2007

CHARTERED 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

but I hope you will come out and vote anyway.

As you read this, Halloween is over and Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. I hope you all were safe from the "trick or treaters" and look forward to our national day of Thanksgiving as much as I do.

I ask each of you to mark three significant future dates on your calendar. First is November 17 (*our Chapter luncheon*). Two major events will take place at this meeting - we will be presenting the Chapter Meritorious Service Award to eight members who have worked hard and provided significant service to the Chapter this year. Additionally, all members in attendance will be voting to elect the Chapter officers for 2008. What's the old saying; don't complain if you did not vote? Well we don't seem to get many complaints

The second date of importance is December 15 which will be our final meeting for 2007. We will have special holiday entertainment provided by the *Dickens Carolers* quartet at this event. Established in 1983, *Dickens Carolers* is a unique holiday season entertainment company providing professional Christmas caroling quartets for venues throughout the valley. The plan is to have the quartet sing during the social period and during lunch. This is a great group and I feel sure it will get you into the holiday spirit.

The last date I hope you take special note of is January 1, 2008. This is the date renewal of Chapter memberships are due. If you have an **07** behind your name on the newsletter mailing label, your renewal dues

will be due on January 1, 2008. An **08** or greater on your newsletter label means you are paid up through that year. For electronic *Sentinel* recipients, you will soon receive (*if you have not already done so*) an informational email with your membership expiration year listed. To aid in your dues paying process, there will be a renewal form in the December edition of the *Sentinel*.

I would like to make a pitch for you to receive the *Sentinel* electronically if you have a computer and access to email. Not only is the print sharper and easier to read but you are

Arizona Chapter Calendar

- Nov 1**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room A107
- Nov 17**
 - General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club
- Nov 11**
 - Veterans Day
- Nov 22**
 - Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 15**
 - Christmas General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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HELP WANTED!

Editor for Arizona Chapter MOAA monthly newsletter - *The Sentinel*. Need more information - contact Terry Tassin at 623-931-1546 or email: terrytassin@cox.net.

It's FUN - Try it you'll like it!!

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

Final Report on Fall Golf Tournament

Profits for the Scholarship Fund from the tournament were \$707. We had 44 players and for the Spring event we hope to have 55!

Please note: Tentatively, the Spring Golf Tournament will be held on May 2, 2008 - put it on your calendar now!

Fund Donations

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

General Fund

The Waldman's \$10

Scholarship fund

The Gallo's \$25

The Gannon's \$12

The Waldmann's \$10

New Members

There are no new Chapter members since the last newsletter. If you have a membership candidate, please contact Membership Chairperson - Dee Norton.

Luncheon Meeting Saturday, November 17 McCormick Ranch Golf Club

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **November 17** 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 **Thursday, November 15**. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

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

getting a full color version of the *Sentinel* - and saving the Chapter some hard to come by money! When I want a hard copy I just print out a copy on my computer's printer. If I need a copy of the Luncheon Registration Slip I just print out that page and send it to our Treasurer with my check. It works GREAT!

Finally, November 10, 1775 was the birth date of the U.S. Marine Corps. I extend to all of our USMC members my wishes for a very happy 232nd birthday.



Happy Thanksgiving to All!

Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame Class of 2007

The seventh annual induction ceremony of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame took place on Friday, October 26th. The Hall of Fame is sponsored by Unified Arizona Veterans, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, and the Office of the Governor. It recognizes Arizona veterans who have honorably served their country through military service and who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

The Arizona Chapter is proud to count two members of the Class of 2007 as members of our Chapter.



Charles Schluter

Carol Culbertson

October Board Meeting Notes

The Board of Directors met on 4 October, 2007.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Johnson reported the present status of fund accounts:

General Checking:	\$ 5491.16
<u>Scholarship:</u>	<u>\$ 7539.63</u>
Total Accounts:	\$ 13,030.79

Legislative: National: The House and Senate are trying to resolve differences in several of the "people issues" amendments to the FY 2008 Defense Authorization Bill.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway volunteered to be the Personal Affairs Chairman.

Programs: Chuck Schluter presented information on the Dickens Carolers for our December Christmas program. Jim Siedl made a motion to book the Dickens Carolers. It was seconded by Chet Baumer and passed unanimously. Marie Fredricks provided detailed information on Mr. Don Ford, musician/entertainer for possible booking for the 2008 Christmas Program. Motion was made by Dan Conway to book Mr. Ford. It was seconded by Jim Seidl and passed unanimously. The 2007 summer outing to the Arizona Broadway Theater was such a great success that plans are already being made to book the theater again for July 2008 for the performance of *The Music Man*.

Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame Nominations: Congratulations go to Chuck Schluter and Carol Culbertson for being selected for the Arizona's Veteran's Hall of Fame for 2007.

Report on September 21 Golf Tournament: Pat Dale reported that \$707 was made for the scholarship fund.

Memorial Carillon Fund: Terry Tassin reported that thanks to member's generosity the Chapter donated \$870. The formal dedication is still to be determined but probably will be Memorial Day 2008

Chapter Meritorious Service Award: Ron Worthington reported that eight members had been nominated for the Chapter's Meritorious Service Award. Ron Green Motioned that all eight nominees be approved. It was seconded by Chet Baumer and passed unanimously. The awards will be presented at the November Luncheon. Award recipients will be: Pat Dale, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Bill Johnson, Ron Perkins, Chuck Schluter, Terry Tassin, and Ron Worthington.

Nominating Committee for 2008 Officers: Chuck Schluter reported the following Nominations for the 2008 Officers: President (Terry Tassin), 1st VP (Ron Worthington), 2nd VP (Ron Perkins), Secretary (Ron Perkins), Treasurer (Bill Johnson), and Past President (Dan Conway). Directors: Chet Baumer, Ron Drew, Gary Fredricks, Ron Green, and Chuck Schluter. Nominations "from the floor" will be accepted at the November general meeting and elections held at that same meeting.

General Meeting Minutes: Motion passed that the taking, reading and dispersal of General meeting minutes be discontinued except for the annual November business luncheon.

October 20th General Meeting Notes

By a Unanimous Yes vote, the members present at the October 20 general meeting approved the modifications to the Chapter Bylaws that had been provided to all members in the October Sentinel.

Coming Attractions

By Chuck Schluter

November: Annual Chapter Business Meeting - Chapter Meritorious Service Awards, Annual Elections, and Administrative Updates. It's your Chapter - be there!

December: Annual Christmas Meeting. Additional details to be announced. Holiday entertainment will be the Dickens Carolers Quartet. Your Board is also considering a back drop of either a community, military or local charitable venue.

January: (Tentative) Matt Chitwood is the grandson of a Battle of the Bulge veteran. His personal research and on the ground tour of Bastogne and the surrounding areas adds flavor to the story of his grandfathers return to the battlefield, a post war meeting with the German soldier responsible for wounding him, and a Purple Heart.

February: Jean McFarland, a prominent local Business Woman and member of the National Speakers Association will discuss *Bullies in the Work Place*. Not working anymore? - think about those who we love, who still are out there! This is a provocative topic.

Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway

I have agreed to replace my brother Bernie as Chairman of the Personal Affairs Committee. I thank him for his work these past two years; especially his urging that we all fill out our Personal Affairs Workbook which I have done. I hope to continue his good efforts.

In this assignment, I see three principal responsibilities. 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 the 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

To start, I would like to call your attention to numerous resources available to MOAA members from MOAA National. There are numerous publications available, either as downloads or as hard copies. The MOAA web site is www.moaa.org. I plan to have sample copies of these documents available at our monthly meetings for you to review and see if they might be of value to you.

For those without email, here is a list of the available publications:

- Aging into Medicare.
- Aging into Medicare and TRICARE For Life Checklist.
- Financial Planning Guide.
- Your Personal Financial Expert.
- Focus on You: a Career Handbook for Spouses.
- Marketing Yourself for a Second Career: A Guide for a Successful Transition.
- Seven Steps to a better Military Retirement.
- Survivor Benefit Plan; Security for your Survivors.
- SPB Made Easy: Active Duty Guide to the Survivor Benefit Plan.
- Security on Call: Survivor Benefits for Guard & Reserve.
- Military Entitlements: Benefits for Guard & Reserve.
- Help Your Survivors Now: A guide to

Planning Ahead.

- Survivors Checklist: First Steps for Moving On.
- Auxiliary Checklist.
- Turning the Corner: Surviving the Loss of a Loved One.
- MOAA's Tricare Pharmacy Guide.

To obtain any of these publications (with or without email), call MOAA at 1-800-234-6622. Have your Membership Number available, and the publications will be on the way.

Again, consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns.

Auxiliary Corner

*by Guest Columnist Violet M. Smith,
Co-chair Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee*

Hello out there! This is a message to all the MOAA members who are surviving spouses - both male and female - of military officers who were MOAA members. Although the majority of surviving spouses are women, MOAA realizes there also are a few male surviving spouses. We would like to hear from all of you.

The members of MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee have a favor to ask of you, and no, it does not involve contacting your legislators, sending your legislators postcards, or making telephone calls this time. We simply are asking you to give us a few minutes of your time.

We would like you to take a walk down memory lane - certainly a nostalgic time, but sometimes that is good for all of us to do - to remember the path you took to become a military spouse.

We are sure there are many memories to tell about how and when you became a military spouse. Most likely, we - the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee members - have similar memories and stories, and we hope you will share them with us. Surely, there were plenty of serious and humorous moments that led to you saying "I do" to that special service member in your life. We want to hear from you, whether your story is serious, funny, or somewhere in the middle. Take a minute to reminisce, and tell us why you decided to marry that special someone and become a military spouse.

Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

On the national legislative scene MOAA reports that our staff, as a part of The Military Coalition, have been briefing the joint committee of Congress charged with rationalizing the different House and Senate versions of the FY2008 Defense Authorization Bill. As always, what gets in and what doesn't will be a matter of what has the highest priority in the eyes of the joint conference. I am confident that our MOAA Washington staff fully understands our priorities and is more than capable of articulating them. They are not at the present time asking for our help, so we need to be patient and see what happens. You can view our collective priorities at www.moaa.org if you wish.

At the state level, there isn't any specific legislative activity at present. The state legislature approved the 2008 budget and the governor signed it some time last summer. The state legislature will not be in session again until January 2008. However, that does not mean we should all be relaxed thinking all is well.

If you have been reading the papers, you will know that the state of Arizona currently expects a shortfall in revenue from that projected when the 2008 budget was approved in the range of \$600 million. A recent article in the Arizona Republic highlighted the issue in relation to a probable curtailment in Veteran's Outreach Expos. Two years ago, a Veterans Task Force chartered by the governor recommended several initiatives, including these expos, to improve veteran's benefits for Arizonans. The significant initiatives were then included in either the FY 2007 or FY2008 budgets and things were looking like we might begin to catch up with what other states are doing for veterans.

Now along comes the revenue shortfall. The governor has told her departments to come back to her with how they will absorb a 5% budget reduction to account for the \$600 million shortfall. For the Department of Veteran's Services, a relatively small department, this amounts to \$500 thousand. As it now stands, some of the expected gains coming from the task force effort may well not make it. Of particular concern are

the potential for not hiring all of the Veteran Benefit Counselors that have been authorized and the potential to lose state matching funding, and consequently federal funding, for a Veterans Home in Tucson. Also, a potential issue is the state funding to help support the operation of the existing Veterans Home in Phoenix. You should recall that earlier this year, issues with this home cost the then director of Arizona Veterans Services his job. I can attest to the fact that this was at least in part due to an inadequate state budget.

As the Chairman of Unified Arizona Veterans and a member of the Arizona Veterans Advisory Service Commission, I will be meeting with the Director, Department of Arizona Veteran's Services and will be closely monitoring this issue over the next few weeks. I urge you to watch the news for developments. We need to try to find ways of deflecting the shortfall to some other department's budget line.

November Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: November 17, 2007
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: Election of Officers for 2008
and presentation of Chapter
Meritorious Service Awards.

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.

TOPS Tips

by Chuck Schluter, TOPS Chair

I had a job over at the Scottsdale Air Park a few years ago. It was a good job, a good group of young folks and just about everyone was pretty pleased with the environment. I was the only one who was “retired” and thought the second career was just right for me. I still do.

However, it wasn't the same for my youthful peers, and more than likely, it won't be the same for folks entering the job market today. Unlike the jobs of yore when a person would climb the “ladder of success” to earn a “retirement” or the proverbial gold watch, the careers of today oft times shun the ladder, and appear more like a spider web. People can climb up, but they frequently shift to the left and right also as they navigate amongst the numerous job opportunities that present themselves. 401K's are the retirement plan now, and people carry theirs with them as they move about. So, the important item to have nearby when opportunities arise is the handy dandy, well written, carefully considered, very current - resume.

If you have gotten this far in this column you either have a resume, are beginning to prepare one, or have a son or daughter you'd like to have one (I can relate to that!). And generally speaking, after the careful construction (write it, brainstorm your past accomplishments; re-write it, add your education and work history, etc) process, folks continue to make mistakes. Make one mistake, and chances are, the prospective employer will simply dump it for you. Several common mistakes to avoid are:

- Do not depend upon “spell check”. Often times a typographical error is not a spelling error (Spill Check).
- Do use a cover letter. Most managers expect the courtesy of a proper cover letter. Better yet, this provides you with an opportunity to underscore your qualifications or focus interest upon you.
- Be relevant! Tailor your resume to the

position you are applying for. Managers avoid generic resumes at all costs – and you should also.

- You made an impact! So say it. Skip the job descriptions and address your accomplishments. You may have implemented cost saving measures – what was the dollar amount of cost avoidances? Perhaps you improved processes, if so, how many man-hours or dollars were saved?.
- Black and White works fine: Use black ink and white or off-white paper. Avoid fancy colored papers or the use of spiffy fonts, and do not paste your photograph onto it either. Your cover letter and resume paper and font should match.
- Your Objective: Your objective ultimately has to be one that benefits you *and* the prospective employer. Specify your accomplishments that match the business needs of the manager, not one that states you hope to gain experience which will prepare you for your next career move.
- Be accurate. Background checks are routinely conducted, so, use your correct titles and dates of employment. Any embellishments that are disclosed will only result in lost opportunities for you.
- Save it! Save it for the interview stage, if they ask. The resume is not the place to share that you were the victim of a reduction in force, were fired, or why you quit. By the same token, hobbies and preferred methods of recreation, height and weight, do not belong on a resume.
- And lastly, remember that a single page for your cover letter and two more pages for your resume is the limit.

Excellent websites for career seekers are www.careerbuilder.com; <http://www.vetjobs.com>; and of course, the best of the best!

http://www.moaa.org/serv/serv_career/index.htm

Coming to the Valley? Check out <http://www.gpec.org/index.asp>.



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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 **17 November 2007**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 15 November 2007**

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

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