

Minutes of the October 2009 Board of Director's Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

Call to Order: President Ron Perkins called the meeting to order at 1105 hours, Thursday, October 1, 2009 at the State Veteran's Home on North Third Street in Phoenix with the Pledge of Allegiance. .

Members Present: John Ady, Dan Conway, Beth Cullison, Jim Cullison, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Ron Perkins, Bill Roscher, Chuck Schluter, Terry Tassin, and Rob Welch.

Minutes: The previously promulgated Minutes of the last Board of Director's meeting (September) were approved.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the current status of fund accounts: General Checking: \$8,945.59; Scholarship: \$11,261.83; plus an additional \$25 from the golf tournament: Total Accounts \$20,232.42.

Auxiliary: Ron Perkins will invite Kathy Upchurch to join future BOD meetings as our new auxiliary chair.

Historian: There was a discussion about updates to the website. All agreed to send suggestions/updates to Ron Perkins who will coordinate and finalize updates with Tom Houser, chapter webmaster.

Give Me Ten: Dan Conway reported there are three outstanding applications awaiting a response.

Membership: Beth Cullison reported John Ady signed up a new member which brings the current membership to 193; 152 regular & 41 auxiliary members. She has updated the paper membership application form and removed the option to request *The Sentinel* via U.S. mail and will e-mail all BOD members a copy. Last year, our chapter got six new members from 16 postcards from the *Military Officer* magazine. Membership solicitation from postcards is one of the submitted agenda items for the upcoming Council of Chapters meeting. Bill Roscher will be president of the Officer Candidate School organization and will solicit new MOAA members there.

Legislative: Gary Fredricks reiterated three major issues: Defense Appropriations Bill, Defense Authorization Bill, and health care reform. He further explained that regardless of your position on health care reform, all bills should include a fix to currently mandated Medicare & TriCare doctor payment decreases. Over the past few years Congress has temporarily delayed these decreases but as of January 2010, rates will be cut 21% unless Congress passes corrective legislation. Gary also shared that the DOD increased TriCare (under age 65) co-pays and other payments. One example is inpatient costs increasing from \$535 to \$645 daily, a 21% jump. Ron Perkins stated a liaison is still needed for Representative Ed Pastor of District 4. John Ady reported he called Senator McCain's office and has talked with several people but hasn't been able to meet with the Senator, although a staff member has agreed to meet with him. There was discussion about how other chapters are handling and a possible meeting with other chapter liaisons to discuss tactics. Ron Perkins agreed to discuss at the Council of Chapters meeting next week.

Newsletter: Jim Cullison proposed including meeting minutes as a separate attachment to *The Sentinel* that goes by U.S. mail rather than including edited versions; all agreed to the change. Jim also proposed adding member profiles from time to time in *The Sentinel*. After some discussion, Beth Cullison made a motion seconded by Gary Fredricks to let Jim pursue profiles for the newsletter as Jim sees appropriate. The motion passed unanimously. John Ady volunteered to assist Jim if needed. Jim has e-mailed members currently receiving both an e-mail and mailed *Sentinel* publication asking if they would be willing to receive via e-mail only to reduce our administrative expenses. He is now awaiting responses. There was also discussion on offering incentives to reduce the volume of printed & mailed copies or possibly charging extra to those requesting a mailed version. Taking further steps was tabled at this time. Gary Fredricks brought up the requirement to inform membership, at least 20 days prior to an officer election, of the slate of nominees. The slate for next year's officers has been covered in the minutes, in *The Sentinel*, and Jim will highlight it in the November *Sentinel*. All agreed the coverage is more than adequate.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway reported assisting a 91-year-old in getting his affairs ready, which was much appreciated. Dan is now on the list for National MOAA for personal affairs support.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks reported the October picnic is all set. Marie confirmed the Dickens Carolers will be on at noon for our Christmas luncheon and reserved 40 seats for the July 17, 2010 summer outing to the AZ Broadway Theater for *Footloose*. Marie researched serving cookies and coffee at the Veterans Home but was told no homemade food is allowed. Ron Perkins encouraged BOD members to arrive early to welcome and socialize with the ESGR people at our picnic. Ron reviewed the picnic meeting agenda and discussed the award presentation.

Programs: Chuck Schluter reported programs are set for the remainder of 2009. Nine companies will be recognized at our October MOAA/ESGR picnic: INTEL, CNA National Warranty, Boeing, Casino AZ, Maricopa County Dept. of Health, Maricopa County Atty Office, Wells Fargo, APS, and AMEX. Per Chuck, more than 50% of our military in Afghanistan & Iraq are from the Guard or Reserves. Chuck indicated flags will be brought to the picnic and a megaphone so all may hear. Terry Tassin volunteered to bring a podium/music stand. Elections will be held at the November meeting along with the MSA presentations. Chuck reviewed potential programs for 2010.

Share-a-Ride Program: Ron Perkins will arrange transportation to our meetings when needed.

Webmaster: Ron Perkins asked Board members to e-mail him suggested updates and/or changes to our chapter website and he will coordinate with our webmaster, Tom Houser.

Old Business:

Chapter Legislative District Liaison: Dan Conway volunteered for John Shadegg if needed. John Ady suggested a meeting for all chapter liaisons once all liaisons are identified. Ron Perkins will obtain liaison names from all chapters and possibly establish a conference call. Ron will bring up at the next Council meeting and request the Council pay for the telephone bridge. Ron mentioned fund raising will also be on next week's Council agenda.

Homeless Veterans and Stand Down: Ron Perkins spoke with Art Sloane and will determine what volunteer support is needed. Ron received a request for used clothing and suggested we could set up a collection box at our monthly meetings. Ron will find out what we would need to do or where clothing donations could be made directly.

Melding of Military Organizations: Ron Perkins queried several chapters and learned there is not a huge interest in combining organizations. There is some interest in scheduling an occasional joint meeting.

AZ Council of Chapters meeting: The meeting will be held October 9th at Luke and Ron will share their agenda once he receives it. Col. Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), Director of MOAA Councils and Chapters, will attend. Gary Fredricks reminded the board of a requirement to be a member of National in order to join a local chapter. However some chapters do not always follow the requirement. National MOAA does not automatically make their members a member of a local chapter. One suggestion is for National to assign their new members to a local chapter to encourage chapter membership.

New Business:

Chapter MSA Nominations: Ron Perkins reviewed the list of nominations submitted by Terry Tassin for this year's Meritorious Service Awards: John Ady, Patricia Dale, Dan Conway, Jim Cullison, Pat Dale, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Tom Houser, Bill Roscher, Chuck Schluter, & Ron Worthington. Ron made a motion seconded by Beth Cullison to approve the slate for awards which passed. Terry moved and John Ady seconded the approval to purchase awards which passed unanimously. Ron Perkins explained the chapter only has two tumblers remaining and therefore we need to purchase additional tumblers used as recognition typically presented to speakers at our monthly luncheon meeting. There was a discussion about a military coin award with agreement that many recipients would not appreciate the significance of the coin. Terry moved and John Ady seconded approval to purchase 10 tumbler sets at a cost of \$10 per set.

Good of the Order, Roundtable:

Meeting flyers: Bill Roscher questioned who makes the framed flyers displayed on the sign-in table at our monthly meetings. Ron Perkins said he makes them on his computer. Accolades to Ron.

National Policy Book: Terry Tassin asked whether our chapter has received an updated MOAA policy book. Ron Perkins has four current books and agreed to provide one to Beth Cullison for the secretarial duties.

Toys for Tots: Terry Tassin is planning for the annual *Toys for Tots* drive. Terry will submit information for publication in *The Sentinel*.

Membership: Beth Cullison initiated a discussion on what the plans are for increasing and retaining membership. National should be sending a quarterly list of potential chapter members including contact information. Ron Perkins will contact Dee Norton to determine if she is getting updates from National. There was a consensus for the need of a strong membership/retention strategy.

PV Vintage Car Show: Chuck Schluter announced the Paradise Valley veterans appreciation vintage car show is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th, 7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at the PV Town Hall, 6401 E. Lincoln Drive. The show's \$50 per car registration fee will benefit the Arizona Guard emergency relief fund. Bil Keane, creator of "The Family Circus" cartoon series, will be the keynote speaker.

Annual MOAA Meeting: Gary Fredricks reminded us that the annual MOAA meeting will be in San Diego, October 22, 23, & 24, 2009. Our chapter will receive the 5 Star Excellence Award.

ESGR Membership: John Ady suggested ESGR as a potential source for new members.

Illness: Ron Perkins gave a brief update on Velma Birtciel's illness and her appreciation for all the get well cards. Ron Green may also need surgery and his wife, Betty, is slowly recovering from her ankle surgery.

Next BOD Meeting: 05 Nov 2009

Luncheon Greeters: **Oct:** John & Sharon Ady
 Nov: Jim & Beth Cullison

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1256 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Cullison, Interim Secretary