



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



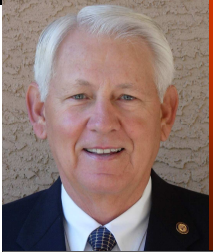
The Arizona Chapter

6393 W. Dublin Lane

Chandler, Arizona

85226

JANUARY 2011 CHARTERED 1956 - 54 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



President's Perspective

by Ron Perkins

Happy New Year!!

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas Holidays with family and friends. It is hard to believe that this is my last president's message, culminating two years as your president. It has been a pleasure to serve. We have a very successful chapter, and I want to thank the Board members and committee chairpersons for all their support. They have made my job really easy.

A Special Thanks

A very special appreciation is owed to the membership at large. Your attendance, your generous support throughout every month, every program, and special events made it possible for the Arizona Chapter to increase membership. Thank you for supporting local and national goals for the active duty personnel as well as retired members.

A Bunch of Fun

Our Christmas meeting was evidence of all that

continuing support. We had a full house with a total attendance of 86; the food was great, the music by the Dickens Carolers was wonderful, and the Chinese Auction was full of laughter. I think everyone went home in a festive spirit.

Upcoming Programs

Chuck Schluter, our program chairman, has lined up an outstanding list of speakers for 2011 starting with the January luncheon speaker Billy Walker, former Air America pilot during the Vietnam War. In February we will hear from Col Jill Nelson from the Arizona National Guard, and then in March we will hear from Col Hoyt Slocum from the 161st Air Refueling Wing at Sky Harbor Airport. I can assure you that all three of these speakers will provide very interesting and informative talks. You won't want to miss any of them.

It is time to renew your membership

Thank you if you have already renewed your chapter membership for 2011. As a reminder, the Chapter dues will be the same for 2011 as they were for 2010 (\$20 regular and \$10 Auxiliary). Renewals are due on January 1 and are vital in maintaining a viable Chapter and in supporting our various activities. If you haven't done so already, please send in your dues to Bill Roscher, our treasurer. You will find a renewal form in this *Sentinel*.

Changing of the Guard

In closing, I will turn over the chapter reins to John Ady at the January luncheon on the 15th. I plan to stay very involved as your membership chairman and as a board member. Thanks again and I'm sure we all look forward to another great year in 2011.

Ron Perkins

Arizona StandDown

This annual event, set for February 4-6, provides a variety of key services for homeless and at-risk veterans. Go to page 6 to see how you can help.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours, Rm. A107, in the Arizona Veterans Home, 3rd Street and Indian School Road. Members are invited to attend.

Upcoming meetings:

- January 6
- February 3
- March 3

Member Meetings/ Luncheons are normally held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1200, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, unless noted otherwise.

Upcoming meetings:

- January 15
- February 19
- March 19

In this Issue

Page 2

- New President's Message
- January Program
- Important Notice on January meeting
- Dues Renewal

Page 3

- December Party Fun

Page 4

- Website Update
- Membership News
- Year in Review

Page 5

- Personal Affairs
- MSA Recipients

Page 6

- Legislative Update
- Arizona StandDown

Page 7

- Correction
- Cell Phone Donations
- Meal Reservation & Donation Forms

Page 8

- Chapter Staff

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

By John Ady
COL, USAR (Ret)



I am honored and delighted to have been selected as your new chapter president for 2011.

It will be a challenge to provide the same level of leadership as Col Ron Perkins and I want to personally take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of all of our members for giving us two outstanding years of strong leadership.

I am fortunate that Ron and the rest of our chapter officers and directors are an experienced and talented group, and I pledge we collectively will do all we can to make your membership in our chapter a most important and enjoyable experience. I look forward to seeing you often at our many chapter events and activities!

Get Set for Our January Meeting

Captain Billie Walker, member of the Lafayette Escadrille and a former Air America pilot in Vietnam, will be our guest speaker January 15. The Lafayette Escadrille is the group that flies biplanes in formation at the annual Memorial Day observance at the National Cemetery.

Walker will be inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame at the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson in March 2011.

Chapter officers for 2011 also will be inducted at the January meeting.

+ + Important Notice for January + +

If you plan to attend the January meeting, send your reservation, this month only, to:

Marie Fredricks
15403 E. Sunburst Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268-4916
Phone 480-836-8419
E-mail: garymarie@cox.net

Remember Your Dues Renewal for 2011

Annual membership renewals for 2011 can be submitted with the renewal form below. Dues for 2011 remain unchanged: \$20 for regular members and \$10 for Auxiliary members.

How do you know if you owe dues? If you receive *The Sentinel* by e-mail, check the membership roster that's sent along with this newsletter. Look for your name and then the column on the right. If the number on the right is a 10, you owe dues for 2011. If you receive *The Sentinel* by U.S. mail, look for the number next to your name on the address label. If it's a 10, you owe for 2011.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

[Arizona Chapter 2011 Membership Renewal Form](#)

Member Full Name: _____

Membership Renewal: **\$20** Regular member _____

Membership Renewal: **\$10** Auxiliary member _____ (surviving spouse)

Any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc:

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to:

AZ CHAPTER MOAA
C/O Bill Roscher
4337 E. Sands Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050

A Holly, Jolly Christmas Luncheon

In what has become a chapter tradition, members were entertained with seasonal music and a rousing Chinese auction at the December holiday luncheon. A total of 86 members, spouses and guests enjoyed the festivities.

The Dickens Carolers drew applause during lunch as they performed such classics as “White Christmas,” “Happy Holidays” and “Feliz Navidad,” along with a tip of the hat to the Irish with “Christmas in Kilarney,” a rollicking rendition of “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” and even the whimsical “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” – and many more.

The action got underway after lunch with the auction, where ticket buyers whose numbers were chosen could open a festively wrapped gift or, if they had eyes on a gift that had already been opened by another member, steal it.

Several gifts went back and forth until they reached the maximum three steals. Popular items included wines and other libations, cheese assortments and an ornate Christmas centerpiece. It was all in good fun.

Gifts were provided by chapter officers and committee heads, and some members even donated a few. Most important, all proceeds from the ticket sales – totaling \$352 – went to the Scholarship Fund.



The Dickens Carolers delighted members with their cheery and animated Christmas music.



Chet Baumer made a steal from Ronnie Welch, who resisted at first but relented in good humor.



Jerry McNally, at left, checked out a bottle of spiked egg nog and decided it was a keeper.

Vaunda Farenga, left, was happy with a 2-pack of wine. The box below said Cheerios, but it was a ruse. It really contained a cookie jar full of goodies for Jo Ann Roscher.



Website Update

It's Ready, Folks

By Rob Welch, Webmaster

Our new website came online Wednesday morning, the 22nd of December, 2010.

Please take a moment to visit it at <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org/> and leave a comment in the blog if you like it. If you don't, please e-mail me directly with your heated words at AZ.MOAA@gmail.com.

Right now I am busy fixing up the broken links between pages caused by the transfer, and updating links to other military-oriented websites, so please bear with me for a couple of weeks while I fix them.

Also, our previous webmaster, Tom Houser, did a great job of developing the old website, and there is a lot of information in it, especially descriptions and pictures of our past events. I am still in the process of copying these to the new website pages.

Hope you will enjoy our new website and will visit it often. Suggestions for improvement are always welcomed.

(Editor's Note: Rob spent many hours and overcame many challenges in remaking the website. He's earned many thanks for his dedication.)

2010: The Year in Review

The year just ended was another active and productive one for the Arizona Chapter. Here are some highlights.

- Donated \$500 to the Arizona StandDown for Homeless Veterans; several members worked as volunteers at the StandDown.
- Donated \$200 to the AUSA Armed Forces Career Day luncheon for JROTC cadets.
- Donated \$100 to the VA's state fair booth cost.
- Presented \$1,000 scholarships to seven JROTC cadets.
- Hosted Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to honor local employers.
- Won MOAA's 5-Star of Excellence Award for the sixth year in a row.
- Won MOAA Communication Awards for *The Sentinel* newsletter and chapter website.

New Member Initiative

By John Ady
Membership Chairman

Our chapter ended 2010 on a high note with 228 members from a low of 189.

Why the great improvement? It took the collective effort of many of our members, and after we established a plan last Spring we obviously did really well. In fact our national headquarters noted our achievements.

Where do we go from here? Outgoing President Ron Perkins has volunteered to become our membership chair for 2011, and I am confident he will equal or surpass what we have been able to do this year.

It's a collective effort and we simply ask that as you meet MOAA members or active or retired officers with no MOAA affiliation that you invite them to a meeting, explain all of our many activities, and contact Ron for assistance. A strong membership base is the true foundation of our success as a 5-Star MOAA Chapter!

Welcome Our Chapter's Newest Members

Donald W. Butler, CDR, USCG (Ret)
And Wife Judy, Fountain Hills

Jack Leigh, Maj, USAF (Frm)
Scottsdale

**Please meet and greet
our new members.**

- Had two members, Gary Fredricks and Webb Ellis, inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.
- Increased membership to 228, exceeding the goal.
- Raised more than \$4,200 for the scholarship fund with the golf tournaments and luncheon raffles.
- Provided a color guard for the Memorial Day commemoration at the National Cemetery.
- Toured the Boeing helicopter plant in Mesa.
- Rolled out a redesign of the chapter website.



Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

Reaching Out to a Friend

The following is excerpted from an article in the Military Officer published in 2008. The article was of value to me following the sudden death of a neighbor.

Grief is complicated and people experience it differently. There is no one right way to help a person who is grieving, but there is one golden rule — listen.

The greatest gift you can give a friend is the permission to talk about his or her loved one. By doing that you are saying, “I know you loved this person. I know this person was special. His or her life mattered, and I want to hear about it.” All you have to do is simply ask your friend how she or he is doing. You don’t have to give advice or opinions. You just have to be present and listen.

Often, well-intentioned people don’t know what to say, so they don’t say anything. It is far better to risk saying the wrong thing than not to be there for a friend. If you don’t know what to say, sharing a memory of a friend’s loved one is a great start.

Share stories. One of the nicest things you can do for a friend who has lost a loved one is to share your own stories about this person. Children especially love to hear stories about a parent from friends who knew them well. It makes him real to them. And it tells them that his or her life mattered.

Keep your word. That characteristic is imperative when providing support to grieving friends. If you say that you will continue to check on them or visit their children or to come by for coffee, you must be true to your word. People who are going through loss have to know they can depend on friends.

Remember to laugh. The old adage “laughter is the best medicine” can apply to grief. The inclination after a death is that it might be inappropriate to laugh, but it can be a great stress reliever. Laughter reminds us there still is joy in life, and our loved one brought joy to our lives.

Offer specific help. We often say, “Let me know what I can do to help.” But that puts the grieving friend in the position of thinking about what he or she needs, and rarely will a person ask for help. Spend time with your friend, and figure out what this person needs. It may be help with child care or thank-you notes or meals. Maybe your friend needs a regular date to have coffee or to take a walk and talk with you. It’s always best to offer help that is specific to what your friend needs.

Look for red flags. Let him or her know that what they are feeling is normal. “It’s perfectly normal that you are feeling tired since your husband died. That’s part of grief.” But it’s not normal if it goes on too long, if a person can’t sleep or can’t eat or can’t get out of bed for an extended period. If you sense that a friend needs help beyond what you can give, gently suggest they seek professional grief counseling.

Continue to consider me as a resource and don’t hesitate to call with your questions and concerns at 480-368-1427.

Daniel M. Conway



MSA Award Recipients

Meritorious Service Awards were presented at the December meeting to three members who could not attend the presentation in December. Recipients, from left, are incoming president and 2010 membership chairman John Ady, chapter secretary Beth Cullison and newsletter editor and chapter historian Jim Cullison.

January 17, 1991, The Gulf War begins with the launch of Operation Desert Storm



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Year-End Wrapup

As the year 2010 comes to a close and *The Sentinel* goes to press, we expected to see the lame duck legislators having vacated their offices, the session ended, and everything being readied for the next Congress to convene on January 5. However, we still found a flurry of activity going on during this lame duck session.

Funding Action

Ongoing activity, which we have been monitoring for some time now, included finishing the FY2011 Defense Authorization Bill, which had been plagued by the “don’t ask, don’t tell” debate. House and Senate Armed Services Committees struck a bipartisan deal that stripped it of several controversial provisions, including that one, which became a separate bill. The House approved the stripped down bill on December 16 and it was hoped the Senate would do likewise before they adjourned.

For a time it appeared that funding for continued government operations would be enacted in an omnibus appropriations bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 14. However, the size of the bill, some \$1.1 trillion with nearly 2,000 pages of text, caused the House to choke on it. It now appears that another interim spending continuing resolution bill, this one extending it out to the March 2012 time frame, is the most likely outcome.

Medicare/TRICARE Cuts Postponed

Congress did prevent the 23.5% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors from going into effect by passing a bill that once again kicked the can down the road, this time to January 1, 2012. They also extended the Bush-era tax cuts with a bipartisan compromise promoted as a further economic stimulus that unfortunately also added significantly to the deficit.

Deficit Commission Speaks Up

The final action that we were monitoring was the Deficit Commission Report. Hitting the streets in early December, it is quite comprehensive, running about 65 pages, making a strong case for the looming fiscal crisis, and covering discretionary spending cuts,

tax reform, health policies, other mandatory policies, Social Security and process reform. It is really heavily weighted on the process and procedure side of the budget with fewer specific recommendations than the co-chairmen led us to believe it would have.

Some Specifics

Specific proposals included in the report are: reforming the tax code, freezing federal civilian pay for three years and reducing the workforce by 200,000, overhauling Medicare, raising the Social Security retirement age, increasing the payroll tax upper limit, changing the COLA calculation and proposing general requirements for significant cuts in defense spending with the particulars remaining to be developed later. The most significant specific issue for us that MOAA has currently identified would make major TRICARE for Life cutbacks affecting Medicare-eligibles and wounded warriors. Basically there would be a \$500 deductible and a 50% cost sharing of the next \$5,000 of coverage.

Next Steps?

However, the initiative required that 14 of the 18 commission members had to agree on the plan in order to bring the commission’s recommendations up for a vote in Congress. Since only 11 voted for it, — by the way, a higher number than expected — it remains to be seen exactly what the next steps for the deficit reduction initiative might be. They are most likely to come through the President’s annual budget submission to Congress and the respective House and Senate budget resolutions which will become clearer in the spring. Given the current economic situation, they are also likely to run their course over a period of years.

So, the story remains. Stay tuned.

Arizona StandDown Volunteers: Log on to www.Arizonastanddown.org and click on the “Register to Participate” page to register your volunteer time Friday, Saturday or Sunday, February 4-6, at the state fairgrounds Veterans Coliseum. There are several shifts to choose from, but slots are limited, so don’t wait. The event offers VA services, health care, clothing, legal aid, meals, housing assistance and more to homeless and at-risk veterans.

Correction: No Demotion

For the record: Ron Green hasn't been demoted, despite the fact that the *Sentinel* editor listed him as Maj Ron Green in the recent officer election. He's still Lt Col Ron Green, USAF (Ret). The editor regrets the error.



Cell Phones for Soldiers

Don't forget to bring your old cell phones to the January meeting. The Chapter will donate them to the non-profit Cell Phones for Soldiers, which receives a 100-minute calling card for a deployed service member for every phone that is donated.

January Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: January 15, 2011
11:00 a.m. Social Hour, 12:00 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$19 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: Captain Billie Walker, former Air America pilot and member of the Lafayette Escadrille.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 13. Cancellations need to be received the same day to receive your money back. Use the reservation form below.

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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 with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.**

General Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ **[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 **January 15, 2011**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **Received No Later Than: January 13, 2011**

Send to: **Marie Fredricks, 15403 E. Sunburst Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268, 480-836-8419, garymarie@cox.net**







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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: www.azchaptermoaa.org

**Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
13819 N. 51st Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254**



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