

Minutes of the February 2011 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on February 19, 2011 at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President John Ady called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

Members Present: John Ady welcomed all and introduced guests at each table including new members Dick Wisler and Colonel Jill Nelson. Total people present: **59** including 56 members/spouses, 3 guests.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported the General Fund is at \$10,437.23 and the Scholarship fund is \$11,019.36 with an additional \$50 in petty cash for a total of \$21,506.59.

2011 Arizona StandDown: John Ady described this year's StandDown event as a big success with over 1,000 homeless veterans served, including 46 women. Several members from our chapter volunteered at the event and were recognized by those attending today's luncheon.

Legislative Report: Gary Fredricks explained the huge TRICARE fee increases proposed in 2007 and 2008 are not planned at this time although a 13% increase in TriCare Prime is recommended and co-pays for prescription generic drugs through a pharmacy are expected to increase. However, mail order prescriptions would decrease in some cases to zero dollars. Gary reminded everyone to please sign and mail the tear-out letters provided in the February *Military Officer* magazine. The letters are addressed to leaders of the House and Senate Budget committee who will be crafting the 2012 budget resolution.

Programs: Chuck Schluter thanked Jill Nelson for joining us today as our guest speaker. Our March speaker will be LTC Hoyt Slocum, Ops Officer 161st AZANG Air Refueling Wing. Chuck is finalizing plans for the April meeting but it promises to be of interest to all.

Auxiliary: Kathy Upchurch was not able to attend today's meeting but John Ady gave kudos to Kathy for the Bingo games at the AZ State Veterans' Home. Chapter auxiliary members and spouses are committed to conduct at least two more Bingo sessions on the first Thursday of March and April. We are looking for more volunteers to support this fun activity, so if you have not already signed up for one or more sessions, please contact Kathy to let her know your availability. Volunteers need not be present each month. If you're unable to reach Kathy, you may contact John Ady or Beth Cullison.

Membership: Beth Cullison reported 75% of the membership have renewed their dues for 2011. Time is running out so if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please renew ASAP.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks provided a flyer on each table with information on our June 25th outing to the Broadway Theater. The play is titled, *All Shook Up*, and is built around songs made famous by Elvis Presley. A reservation form will be in *The Sentinel*, and she urged all to make your reservation soon as space is limited.

Golf Tournament: Pat Dale gave a brief overview of the upcoming golf tournament on April 8th with a shotgun start at 0730 hours. The cost is only \$65 with lots of prizes including a \$1,000 hole in one prize. Pat anticipates 75 to 100 players and everyone is invited to participate. The target is to net \$2,000 towards our scholarship fund. Ron Perkins added he will be sending an e-mail to sign up for the golf tournament or donate to the scholarship fund so we can continue to award seven or more scholarships.

Cell Phones for Troops: Pat Dale reported our chapter has donated over 50 phones to this cause. Each phone provides a 60-minute phone card for troops overseas. We have provided approximately 4,000 minutes of time to date. We are partnering with Messinger Mortuaries on this program. Pat asked that old cell phones no longer used be brought to a luncheon meeting or to any of the board members to help support our troops stationed overseas.

Projector: John Ady announced Rob Welch succeeded in obtaining an Epson digital multi-media projector free of charge directly from Epson. This saved our chapter about \$1,000 and we will now always have the projector available when needed for chapter luncheons and events.

Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Colonel Jill J. Nelson: Chuck Schluter introduced Colonel Nelson, Commander of the Arizona National Guard Joint Counter Narco-Terrorism Task Force (JCNTF), the third largest National Guard Counterdrug program in the Nation. Colonel Nelson directs task force operations for an active duty-status joint organization supporting National Guard drug interdiction and demand reduction efforts throughout the state of Arizona. She is also the commander of *Operation Copper Cactus*, the recent deployment of 560 Soldiers and Airmen in support of the Department of Homeland Security, specifically, the Office of Border Patrol and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. Colonel Nelson provided many examples of how they provide support and accomplishments but explained they do not typically publish their accomplishments. JCNTF includes 135 service members, 13 officers, 122 enlisted. About 60% are Army and 40% Airforce. Their two primary missions are: general reconnaissance & aerial reconnaissance. They operate covertly and approximately 99% of their missions are in remote desert areas. Most of the team members have been to Iraq or Afghanistan multiple times. She provided slides of some of the equipment used and their capabilities. Colonel Nelson described the incredible skills of the pilots. In addition, they have developed programs, including three day retreats, to help students set positive goals and steer them away from drugs. *Operation Copper Cactus* supports

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Border Patrol, and Department of Homeland Security.

AZ National Guard Association Conference: John Ady said this year's AZ NG Conference conflicts with the AZ Council of Chapters meeting our chapter is hosting. Therefore, the board members will not be available to staff a recruiting table at the Conference. John asked for volunteers to staff the table for a few hours and to contact John or Ron Perkins to volunteer.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle collected \$171 with \$86 going to the scholarship fund. Three prizes were awarded: one \$15, one \$30 and one \$40 for a total of \$85 awarded.

Benediction provided by John Ady

Adjournment: 1412 hours

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Cullison, Secretary