

Minutes of the April 2011 Board of Directors' Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

Call to Order: President John Ady called the meeting to order at 1030 hours, Thursday, April 7, 2011, at the State Veterans Home at 4141 N S Herrera Way (North Third Street), in Phoenix with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: John Ady, Dan Conway, Beth Cullison, Jim Cullison, Rance Farrell, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Ron Green, Ron Perkins, Bill Roscher, and Rob Welch.

Minutes: The previously promulgated Minutes of the last Board of Directors' meeting (March) were approved.

Officer/Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Roscher summarized the chapter's accounts: General Fund \$11,284.43 plus \$50 Petty Cash, Scholarship Fund \$11,823.07 for a total of \$23,157.50.

Auxiliary: Kathy Upchurch was not available but provided information published in *The Sentinel*. Bingo will be conducted today at the Veterans' Home.

Historian: Jim Cullison asked whether the list of attendees to the Chapter's 50th anniversary event should be retained in our archives. After some discussion, it was agreed there is no need to store that list as it would probably never be needed again.

Legislative: Gary Fredricks referred to the *Military Officer* April edition which includes simple tear out letters to sign and mail requesting Congress reverse the projected 28% cut in Medicare and military TRICARE payments to doctors that will occur Jan. 1, 2012, unless Congress changes current law. Everyone should take a moment to mail those letters. There is a lot of preparation underway for the upcoming 'Storming the Hill' campaign. Gary emphasized two key issues: sustaining active forces manpower & pay, and impacts to TRICARE. Gary explained that although the President's budget proposed only modest TRICARE increases, it proposed using an index that would drive the costs up and off the charts. The budget is a major issue. Although the lame duck Congress passed a stripped down budget, an appropriations bill is needed to implement. At the state level, about a dozen bills relate to Veterans and military. Gary highlighted one bill that aims to make the GI Bill more user friendly at Arizona universities.

Gary explained the chapters are affiliates of National MOAA and National members are not automatically a member of a local chapter. Each chapter has its own by-laws and operating procedures. In an attempt to increase chapter membership, National MOAA has approved a pilot project with Texas and Virginia. National will assign each new National member in those two states to one of their local chapters based on the member's address. The assigned chapter will send a notification letter to the new member including a request for dues, e.g., 'if you want to be an active chapter member it will cost you \$20 annually'. Gary provided a few National MOAA membership statistics: membership is increasing by about 1% annually primarily due to active duty and reserves now participating, current National membership consists of 67% former military, 16% auxiliary, 17% active duty. More than 50% of new National members are active duty and reserves. Gary has a lot of interesting information about what MOAA does and could do a 10 to 15 minute presentation. John Ady will talk to Chuck Schluter, and Ron Perkins suggested Gary present at the November luncheon meeting.

Membership: Beth Cullison reported 2011 membership stands at 194, 85.1% renewed. Three of our members that joined at the 2010 National Guard Conference paid 2011 dues to renew their membership. Ron Perkins said anyone converting to National MOAA life membership will earn our chapter *Give Me 10* credit. Life membership is discounted based on the member's age, and a 10% discount is provided if you call National to convert. Ron talked about a list of 24 potential chapter members from National. The list includes new National members that live in our area and National members that recently moved into our area. Dan Conway volunteered to send out a recruitment letter to each person. Dan will notify John Ady once the mailing is complete. Ron Perkins, John Ady, Jim Cullison and Ron Green will make follow-up calls after the letters have been received to try and sign them up as chapter members.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway received a request from a financial planner to participate in the Personal Affairs workshop Dan is planning to hold this October. Bill Roscher is a retired financial planner with over 40 years experience and our current treasurer. Bill is planning to help with the workshop and all agreed we don't need another financial planner there.

Arrangements: Marie Fredricks has received about 13 reservations for the theater outing on June 25th. She has 30 seats reserved and the next newsletter will be the last chance to sign up.

Programs: John Ady reviewed the upcoming luncheon speakers Chuck Schluter has lined up. Flyers are already planned for the remainder of the year.

Newsletter: Jim Cullison apologized for a typo in the April issue of *The Sentinel*. No one else noticed it and the board expressed appreciation for all Jim's work on our newsletter.

Website: Rob Welch continues to update the website and had added a couple of items in the Personal Security section.

Old Business:

Scholarship Program & Fund/Foundation: There was a lengthy discussion about changing the name from "Arizona Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund" to "Arizona Chapter MOAA Scholarship Foundation". Jim Cullison presented the legal opinion provided by Gregg Maxon. Rob Welch researched requirements from the Arizona Corporation Commission. Requirements include a board, meetings, reports, financial records, minutes, and bylaws all separate from the chapter's. The filing fee is \$35 and the change must be published for three consecutive days in one of the approved newspapers. The newspaper three-day publication requirement ranged from about \$36 to \$45. Bill Roscher explained a foundation is usually based on an endowment and required to spend a minimum amount per year whether the organization wants to or not. Bill made a motion to rescind the prior passed motion to change the name and retain the current name. Ron Perkins seconded the motion. It was noted that most of the money for the scholarships comes from the golf tournament. Rob emphasized the need to conform to the letter of the law and regardless of the name, we should have separate bylaws and meetings. The board unanimously agreed to retain the "Arizona Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund" name. All agreed to hold a separate annual meeting focused on the Scholarship Fund. A separate meeting will be held following our regular board meeting in May. Bill Roscher volunteered to draft proposed bylaws to review and finalize at the meeting.

Scholarship Committee: Rob Welch, Ron Green, and Bill Roscher selected five of the eight candidates to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Rob Welch made a motion seconded by Bill Roscher to award the five selected. The motion passed unanimously. Rob Welch said he'd like to review the selection process. Rob will notify each of the five students and provide the luncheon count to Marie Fredricks.

New Logo & Correspondence Format: Rob Welch is getting the new Chapter logo copyrighted. Dan Conway had e-mailed the board a format proposal and will bring a copy of his recommendation to the next meeting. The discussion was tabled until next month.

AVHOF: Ron Perkins said several chapter members are being nominated. Rance Farrell is being worked by Dick Minor, General Snyder is submitting Ron Green, Ron Perkins has the package for Gregg Maxon ready for John Ady's signature and will mail immediately. Ron Perkins wants to submit Dan Conway and the board agreed.

Chapter Golf Outing: John Ady said Pat Dale has been working to hold another successful golf outing but said TriWest withdrew their \$500 sponsorship due to expense cuts. Ron Perkins expressed disappointment that not many of our chapter members attend this major chapter event. There are about 70 people signed up. Pat Dale does so much to ensure a fun-filled money raiser for the scholarship fund.

Travel Policy: Tabled for future meeting

AZ Council Meeting: Ron Perkins tracked the responses to the questionnaire: 14 people responded they will attend and 11 plan to attend Gary & Marie Fredricks' dinner. He's still waiting to hear back from a few more. Seven have said they want hotel reservations but to date only three have actually made their reservations. The response for spouse activities is mixed so nothing is confirmed yet. Ron will find out if equipment is needed for the meeting such as a projector, screen or laptop for

PowerPoint presentations. Gary & Marie declined any offers to be reimbursed for any of the dinner expense.

Memorial Day Color Guard: Bill Roscher, Rob Welch, Paul Fein and John Ady will participate in the Color Guard during this year's Memorial Day observance at the Phoenix National Veterans Cemetery. Dan Conway will bring the flags. John Ady is the point of contact and will get five parking passes.

New Business:

Support of AUSA Golf Tourney – April 15, 2011: Rance Farrell expressed his appreciation for the chapter's generous support.

MOAA Levels of Excellence Awards – Due June 1, 2011: Ron Perkins and John Ady will send out a draft to the board for review and feedback.

Luncheon Meeting Greeters:

April – Ron & Bette Green

May – Ron & Betty Perkins

Good of the Order, Roundtable:

TriWest Withdrawal: Bill Roscher expressed disappointment that TriWest will not be contributing to the golf tournament as it provided about 30% of the tournament income. However, Rob Welch has obtained a \$200 contribution and Dan Conway is confident he will be getting \$2,000 from TriWest directly for the scholarship fund. Bill will be away during September and October so Marie Fredricks offered to help with the luncheon reservations.

Dan Conway: Dan reminded Ron Perkins to e-mail the excel spreadsheet of 24 potential chapter members so Dan can mail letters to each of them. Dan also asked if the chapter tax return was completed. Bill assured him he completed and submitted it in February.

Rance Farrell: Rance will not be available for the next two meetings.

Next BOD Meeting: 5 May 2011

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1215 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Cullison, Secretary