



A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on January 21, 2012, at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. First Vice President & Webmaster Rob Welch called the meeting to order at 1200 hours and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

Members Present: Rob Welch welcomed all and began with introductions. Total people present: 48 members and spouses and 6 guests.

Golf Tournament: Pat Dale announced the spring golf tournament will take place on April 19 at the Starfire Golf Club in Scottsdale. The entry fee is \$69 which also covers lunch and prizes. If you don't play golf, you can still join us for lunch and/or sponsor a tee for \$25 which includes your name prominently displayed. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

Cell Phone for Soldiers: Pat Dale thanked the chapter for donating 125 cell phones to date earning 7,500 minutes of usage for our troops overseas. Pat encouraged everyone to donate their old cell phones to the chapter. You can bring them to any chapter meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Roscher reported: General Fund \$9,172.96 plus \$50 Petty Cash, Scholarship Fund \$13,582.41 for a total of \$22,805.37.

Programs: Chuck Schluter presented the upcoming schedule of programs. Colonel Joe Abodeely, Director Arizona History Military Museum, will speak at our February luncheon. Bob Barnes, Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services will speak at the March luncheon. Tom Fenner, Community & Military Liaison at Hospice of the Valley will present in April.

Legislative Affairs: Gary Fredricks provided current highlights. The long awaited environmental study was completed and favors Luke Air Force Based for the F35 training program. On the national side, the government almost shut down three times in 2011 and the deficit continues to overshadow politics. Gary referred to 2011 as the "Year of Gridlock". The new military strategy is the foundation for the Department of Defense budget which is leaning towards personnel and benefits cuts including retiree benefits. The President will publish his budget in February which should provide some specifics. The potential 27% cut to TriCare looms with another deadline of March 1. Gary asked all members to support our legislative actions via the MOAA website by clicking on the "take action" tab and submitting the pre-written letters to Congress. It is so simple and can make a huge difference. The State legislature reconvened January 9. There are currently 28 bills potentially impacting the military. Several bills will be voted on Tuesday, January 24 at 0900 hours in the Senate Office Building. Gary will be there and invited everyone to attend to provide support.

Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Member Presentation: Rob Welch explained the Board discussed restructuring our luncheon meetings to minimize officer reports since the information is typically covered in *The Sentinel* and Board meeting minutes. Members can now volunteer to present a memorable event or item from their military career. Rob introduced member Frank Hoak. Frank gave a moving presentation about *Operation Homecoming* to bring back Viet Nam POWs in 1973. Frank explained 591 were released based on when they were shot down. A critical part of the program

was trying to learn who was still left alive and where they might be. He talked about how POWs tracked and identified other POWs using the only paper available, tiny razorblade wrappers.

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Gary Fredricks introduced Colonel Lee Lange, USMC (Ret). Gary is on the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee and has known Col Lange for over four years. Col Lange served a 30-year career as an artillery officer. His assignments included a wide range of operational, staff, and command billets in each of the Marine Corps' artillery regiments and four divisions. He joined the staff of the Military Officers Association of America, Government Relations Department, in June 2001, where he became the lead on military survivor issues. In June 2006, Col Lange was named as the deputy director, Council and Chapter Affairs Department, and he became director of that department in December 2006. Col Lange and his staff make over 150 chapter visits annually.

Induction of Officers: Colonel Lange conducted the induction of 2012 chapter officers. (COL John Ady, President, was absent due to travel.)

First Vice President: COL Rob Welch
Second Vice President: Lt Col Jim Cullison
Treasurer: COL Bill Roscher
Secretary: Leonore Hoak
Directors:
COL Rance Farrell
Lt Col Ron Green
COL Nancy Burt
CAPT Frank Hoak
CDR Jim Draper

Guest Speaker: Colonel Lange spoke about the importance of MOAA Chapters and their benefits. Last year National MOAA finished with 377,000 members. MOAA is the fourth largest military association in the country which gives us clout in Washington, D.C. Four of 10 new members are currently serving but MOAA still works with the core membership, retirees. The chapters play a significant role in grass roots support of legislative issues. The chapters can help by linking up with local representatives through meetings, calls, e-mails, and letters. In February the *Military Officer Magazine* will include a tear out letter and in March a post card will be available to sign and send to Congress. Colonel Lange emphasized the importance of mailing the letters and cards. In April the State Council Presidents will "Storm the Hill" in Washington, meeting with legislatures on key issues to obtain their support. The activities in the community are another important function of the local chapters. The chapters should spread the word about MOAA through many events and activities such as our golf tournaments, JROTC scholarships, etc. There are currently 412 chapters nationwide for a total of about 62,000 chapter members which amounts to about 17% of national membership. National is trying to increase chapter membership. We are currently facing some of the biggest challenges including protecting and fixing benefits. Health benefits are currently a very important issue. The President's budget should show the potential impacts. MOAA will ask for members' help if the budget goes after our earned benefits. Colonel Lange encouraged members to stay informed and if National asks for help to please send in the letters and postcards. He thanked our chapter and complimented us on our many activities. Rob Welch presented Colonel Lange with an Arizona State University sweatshirt as a thank-you from our chapter.

Raffle: Bill Roscher conducted a brief auction for two tickets to Thursday's ASU men's basketball game donated by member Doug Gray. Rance Farrell was the lucky winner with a \$10 bid.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle: Bill Roscher coordinated the raffle awarding five prizes: one \$5, one \$10, and three \$20 for a total of \$75 awarded. \$83 was added to the scholarship fund.

Next Board of Director's Meeting: February 2 at Papago National Guard headquarters.

Next Chapter Luncheon Meeting: February 18

Benediction provided by Rob Welch

Adjournment: 1354 hours

Respectfully submitted: Beth Cullison, Secretary