



THE ARIZONA CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America
Arizona's First Chapter



Minutes April 21, 2012 General Meeting, Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on Saturday, April 21, 2012 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 present and invited new guests to give a brief personal introduction. Total people present: 50.

Legislative Affairs: Gary Fredricks just returned from Washington DC and MOAA's annual Storming of the Hill. MOAA visited with representatives of all 50 states plus Puerto Rico to discuss current veteran issues. Foremost items were the current review of military retirement and medical benefits. Please see this month's *Sentinel* for Gary's in depth summary.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway brought several publications from his most recent Personal Affairs Workshop as handouts for attendees who may have missed them; MOAA Estate Planning and A Guide to Planning Ahead. Dan reminds members that it's never too soon to address these important issues.

Member Announcements: Major General Schneider invited any interested veterans to attend this afternoon's Veteran Heritage Program at ASU West, 3pm. Dick Weiss made note of the upcoming auction on PBS as well as the May 3 Veterans Job Fair to assist returning service members and veterans.

Presidents Report: John Ady introduced a new process to speed up the monthly reports that will allow new agenda items at the luncheon meetings.

Golf Outing Results – Pat Dale predicts \$1500 - \$2000 for the Scholarship Fund
Treasurer - Bill Roscher reports \$11013.00 in the general fund; \$14653.00 in the scholarship fund and \$50.00 in petty cash totaling \$25,716.00. Next month will have \$7,000.00 in JROTC scholarship awards given out.

Super Committee Approved Recommendations – Member Spotlight will become a part of each monthly meeting; October meeting at McCormick RR Park will be a social event with entertainment; ESGR Awards will be given at the November meeting; several new event options are being researched – summer D-Back game and/or visit to MIM, fall visit to the Air Force Museum at Falcon Field, Nov 3 Army-Air Force football game “tailgate party” are the current front runners

Raffle - at each Chapter Meeting, 2 complimentary tickets to the next month's Chapter Luncheon will be raffled. All Chapter members excluding BOD will be included in the drawing

Membership - 193 members as of March 31, 2012 – National MOAA is taking a hard look at possible joint marketing to increase local Chapter membership. There are 7 new members recruited since January 2012. We encourage everyone to “BRING A BUDDY”!

Tricare - review the proposed new fees for retired veteran's through 2017 on MOAA website – IMPORTANT to follow up as requested
Scholarship Fund – Donations have been received from TriWest/\$1000.00 and from Dan Germand in memory of his wife Lynda/\$290.00

Member's Spotlight: Retired Army aviator Col. Nancy Burt started her presentation with a special salute to all her fellow women aviators! While both the Navy and the Air Force had restrictions to exclude women in air combat missions, Nancy was able to train in the Army as a combat helicopter pilot and maintenance officer during the Cold War. Sharing her story of running out of gas, landing a Huey in an open field at midnight, being greeted by an armed local farmer who thought it was a UFO sighting and being told by her boss to “resolve the issue” brought laughter and appreciation from the members. Nancy ended her career as a Public Relations Officer promoting the role of women in the service. On display were her flight helmet and gloves, photos, several award plaques and her Korea service unit book. A very enjoyable presentation!

Introduction of Speaker: John Ady introduced this month's speaker, Tom Fenner, the Community & Military Liaison at Hospice of the Valley. Tom served in the U S Navy as a Machinist Mate aboard the destroyer USS COWELL and as a 3rd Class Petty Officer on the hospital ship USS SANCTUARY in South Vietnam

Speaker: Hospice of the Valley was founded in 1977 and is the oldest, largest hospice in Arizona as well as the largest not-for-profit hospice in the United States. SALUTES is their special program to offer veterans specialized palliative and end-of-life care and to recognize and thank them their service. Tom Fenner serves as the Military Liaison for Hospice and the veterans it serves. Since its start up in 2010, over 500 salutes to veterans have occurred. Tom has proudly done over a third of the salutes; meeting with patients, presenting their branch of service flag, a commemorative pin and listening to their proud military service stories has been a life changing occurrence for him. Tom shared stories of the WWII pre-D Day Navy UDT behind German lines, the Marine who served as a “guinea pig” for atomic ground zero testing, the 30 year career of a USAF pilot who “never did anything special, was just proud to serve”, and the homeless veteran living his final days with his friends under the 7th Ave Bridge in Phoenix who were all Hospice patients. Hospice is staffed by 9 fulltime nurses 24/7, the patient cost for hospice care is \$0 – Medicare and insurance payments are accepted but any additional fees are covered by Hospice. Volunteers are always needed to help Tom with these SALUTES.

Raffles: Two Diamondback tickets were donated and raffled for \$50.00. The 50/50 raffle totaled \$165 - \$80.00 was awarded by Bill Roscher - \$20.00 was re-donated to the scholarship fund.

Reminder: Next BOD meeting is May 3, next Chapter meeting is May 19

Adjournment: 1355 with Closing Benediction

Respectfully submitted by Leonore K. Hoak, Secretary

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