



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

8213 E. Del Camino Dr.

Scottsdale, AZ

85258

DECEMBER 2012

CHARTERED 1956 - 56 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by John Ady



Season's Greetings

Hello, everyone, and the best to you and your family from Sharon and me as we enjoy this great holiday season living in the greatest country in the world!

Well, the elections across America are now over, and it's time that all these complex state, local and national issues start getting serious attention.

Budget Dilemma

Of special interest is this issue commonly called sequestration. Simply put, if our federal budget woes do not get resolved by year-end, then the effects on our military budget will be quite severe and will affect all active, reserve and retired military personnel and their families. Collectively, we need to keep the pressure on our Congressional delegations in every way possible. I am guardedly optimistic.

In case you missed the November luncheon, we had another outstanding meeting, which featured both our annual ESGR

Awards and our chapter Meritorious Service Awards, given to a group of outstanding people who have served this chapter well over the past year. Without these dedicated volunteers we could not ever achieve the great things we do year in and year out.

5 Stars

For example, we just received our eighth consecutive Five Star Excellence Award from MOAA, which I had the privilege of accepting at our national meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, a few weeks ago. In fact I received that award while Hurricane Sandy was causing torrential rains and winds in the Washington, D.C., area.

How We Do It

I was asked by a number of people in attendance as to how we keep winning these awards each year. Simply, it is because of the small cadre of volunteers who make this chapter function at such a high level, and

our 2012 MSA recipients are a very important part of this group.

Turning to the December 15 annual party, we have great plans in place and hope that you are able to come.

Auxiliary Recognition

Of special note, all current Auxiliary members are being extended an invitation to join us at the party and receive a complimentary lunch from the chapter in recognition of their many years of loyal support to their spouses who wore the uniform and also to celebrate that they now have full MOAA voting rights. The proposal was voted on by the national membership of regular and life members and was passed by a very large majority.

Sign Up Now

Congratulations, ladies, and just sign up in the normal manner and indicate on the sign-up form that you are an Auxiliary member.

In closing, we hope to see you at the December luncheon, and if not, hopefully early next year.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors

meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month.

Location: National Guard Distance Learning Center, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members are invited to attend.

Upcoming meetings:

- December 6
- January 3

Member Meetings/ Luncheons

are 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:

- December 15
- January 19

In this Issue

Page 2

- 5 Star Banner
- Toys for Tots
- Pearl Harbor Day
- Dues Renewal Form

Page 3

- December Program

Page 4

- ESGR Awards
- MSA Recipients
- A Perfect Storm

Page 5

- Personal Affairs
- Scholarship Donations
- Tax Deduction

Page 6

- Legislative Update
- Rideshare

Page 7

- Defying Sandy
- Meal Reservation & Donation Forms

Page 8

- New Members
- Chapter Staff





A 5-Star Day for the Chapter

The MOAA 5 Star Chapter of Excellence Banner was affixed to the Arizona Chapter flag at the November luncheon. Doing the honors at left were chapter officers Jim Draper, Rob Welch, John Ady and Frank Hoak. The award, the eighth consecutive won by the Chapter, was presented to John at the MOAA annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia, in October. Five stars is the top chapter award given by MOAA.



Help the Arizona Chapter and the Marine Corps Reserve put a smile on the face of a less fortunate child this holiday season.

We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center's Toys For Tots program at Christmas. All members are encouraged to bring at least one toy for donation to this worthy program. Usually, the 9-12 year-old age group is the most difficult to accommodate. You can bring your donations to the December luncheon. No stuffed animals please.

Chapter Members to Participate in Pearl Harbor Remembrance Event

The Arizona Chapter will be represented at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony on December 7 at Wesley Bolin Plaza, on 17th Avenue across from the State Capitol in Phoenix. CAPT Frank Hoak, who was a young boy living with his family on Oahu at the time of the attack, and COL Rob Welch will lay a wreath as part of a commemorative ceremony during this free event. The program starts at 10:55 a.m., marking the hour and minute (Arizona time) that the attack on Pearl Harbor began. The event will include a groundbreaking ceremony for a World War II Memorial to be constructed at the Plaza.

Time for 2013 Chapter Membership Renewal

Annual membership renewals are due by December 31 and can be submitted with the renewal form below. Dues for 2013 remain \$20 for regular members and \$10 for Auxiliary members. Fill out the form below and send it with your check to Bill Roscher at the address shown.

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

[Arizona Chapter 2013 Membership Renewal Form](#)

Member Full Name: _____

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

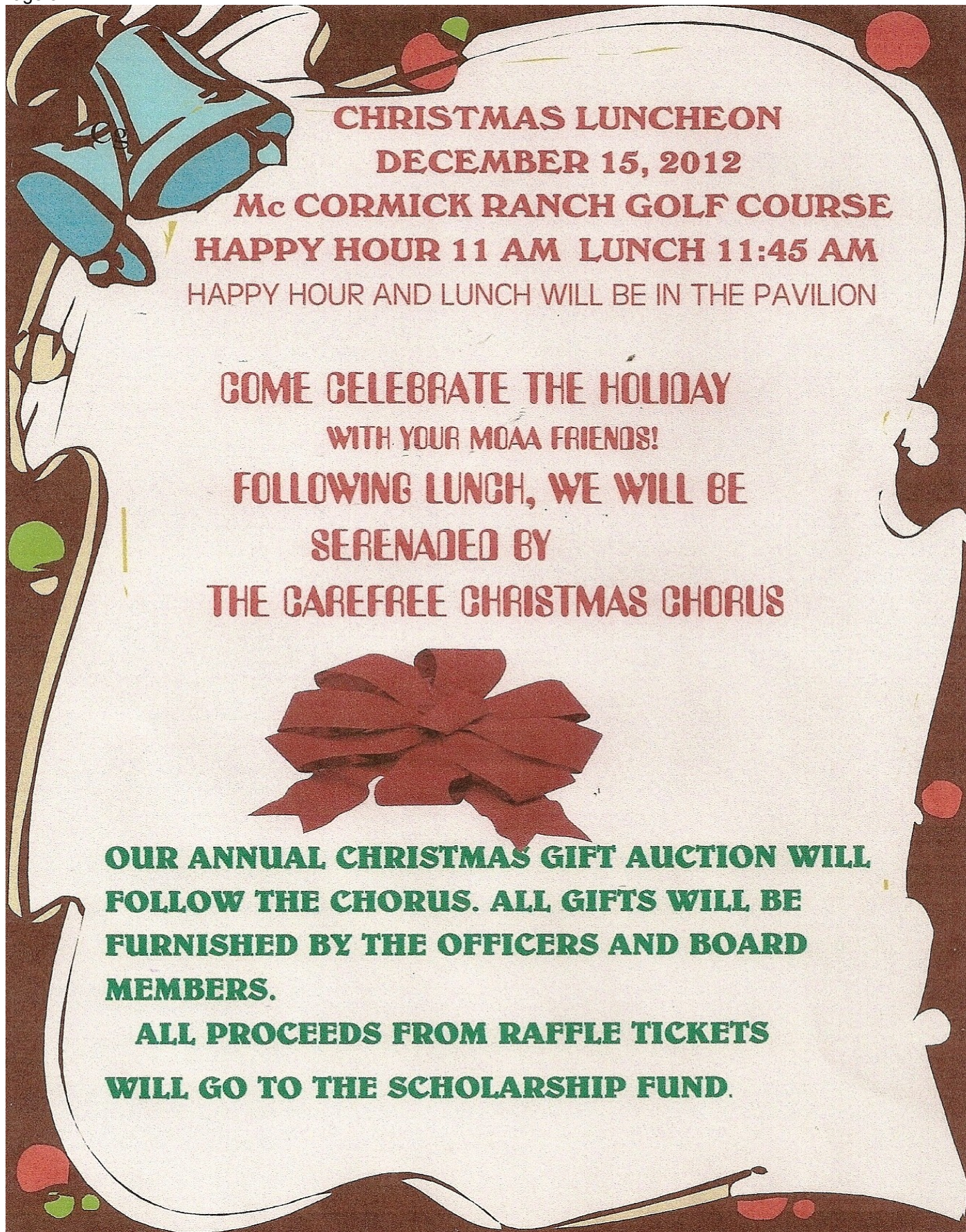
Membership Renewal: **\$10** Auxiliary member _____ (surviving spouse)

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

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

Mail renewal form and check to:

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



**Reservations Must Be Received No Later Than Tuesday, December 11
Use Reservation Form on Page 7**



Chapter Honors Local Employers

The Chapter hosted representatives from three local employers at the November luncheon who were honored for support of their employees in the National Guard and Reserve.

Receiving awards from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) were, third from left above, Tracy Jennings for Centerline Mechanical; Julie Tomige for American Express, and TSgt Fernando Canez, USAF Reserve, for Salt River Project, which he nominated.

Also pictured at left are Chuck Schluter, ESGR Employer Outreach Director, BG Al Gonzalez, Arizona Army NG Assistant Adjutant General, who discussed the vital role Guard and Reservists play in the nation's defense, and John Ady at right, Chapter President.

Centerline Mechanical also was selected as one of the top 30 employers out of 3,200 nationwide in the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award program.

Meritorious Service Honorees

Meritorious Service Awards were presented to four chapter members and three spouses at the November luncheon for their commendable service to the chapter and community over the last year. Recipients, from left, are Rob Welch, Beth Cullison, Nancy Burt, Leonore Hoak, JoAnn Roscher and Frank Hoak. Also receiving an MSA but unable to attend was Ron Green.



Member's Spotlight

Jim Rides Out a 'Perfect Storm'

CDR Jim Draper didn't know he was in for a wild ride when he received his first assignment as a new Ensign out of Navy OCS in 1958.

First of all, the ship he was assigned to was not what usually comes to mind — not an aircraft carrier, cruiser or destroyer and such. It was an oceangoing tug, or as his OIC described it to him, a "ghost ship."

The ship, named Tequesta, performed a secretive mission off the coast of California, keeping tabs on Russian submarines that ventured into the area.

His wild ride began one day when he had watch on the bridge and learned of a heavy storm brewing.



Jim Draper recounts a stormy night.



Jim's "ghost ship"

He got permission to try to get ahead of the storm, but it caught up with the ship. Soon the craft was fighting 30-foot swells that steadily grew to 40, then 50, then 60-65 feet.

By then, Jim had turned the ship around to head into the storm and get behind it, and he told the crew to brace for a rough ride.

And a rough ride it was. "We rode the waves up and down all night," Jim said. The Tequesta's speed was set at 13 knots into the waves, but by dawn when the storm had subsided and the crew marked their position, "We hadn't moved," he said. The power of the storm and waves had neutralized their speed and held them in place.

The end of the storm did not end their problems. The ship developed a shimmy as it headed to port. Once in port it was discovered that the right stabilizer, a 2-inch thick steel plate attached to the hull, had as Jim described it, "peeled back like a can of sardines."

But despite the difficulties, Jim and the crew of the Tequesta had survived "the perfect storm" and had an incredible story to tell.





Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

Personal Affairs Resources from MOAA

While MOAA National's principal efforts relate to legislative activities, they also have a very extensive Personal Affairs program.

Each month, I try to inform you as to some of these subjects in addition to subjects of local interest. However, there is no way that I can cover all of the subjects, especially those which might be of interest to only a few of our members. Therefore, I am referring you to available MOAA publications which might be of interest to you. They are listed below.

To access these publications, simply sign in at www.moaa.org/ and go to Publications. You will find a list of all the publications shown below with a brief description of each. With your membership number and a password, you can download the publications which you are interested in. You can also call MOAA at 1-800-234-6622, give them your membership number and they will mail the publications to you.

Of particular interest is the "Interactive Forms" which is the last item on the following list. Numerous forms can be filled out online and printed to have available when needed.

- Down to Business: MOAA Career Guide
- Aging into Medicare and TRICARE For Life
- Auxiliary Checklist
- College Prep: Military Education Guide
- Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide
- Estate Planning
- Family Matters: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind
- Benefits and Financial Planning Guide
- Focus on You: A Career Handbook for Spouses
- Former Spouse Benefits
- Guard/Reserve Retirement Checklist
- Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead
- Marketing Yourself for a Second Career: A Guide for a Successful Transition
- Military Family Legislative Action Guide

- Military Entitlements: Benefits for Guard & Reserve
- The MOAA Investors' Manual
- Personal Affairs Action Guide: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind
- SBP Made Easy: Active Duty Guide to the Survivor Benefit Plan
- Security on Call: Survivor Benefits for Guard & Reserve
- Seven Steps to a Better Military Retirement
- State Report Card
- Survivor Benefit Plan: Security for Your Survivors
- Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On
- Turning the Corner: Surviving the Loss of a Loved One
- Understanding Long Term Care
- Your Guide to Military Burials
- Interactive Forms

Please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your Personal Affairs questions and concerns at 480-368-1427.

Daniel M. Conway

Donations to Scholarship Fund

John Ady \$175

Arlene Day \$15

Anonymous \$20

Here's a Worthwhile Tax Deduction

As you consider year-end donations, a gift to our Scholarship Fund can lower your taxes to state and federal government and at the same time provide worthwhile assistance to JROTC students bound for college.

Your donation to the Fund is tax deductible, so why not take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help youths right here at home and reduce your own tax obligation.

Just mail your check made out to AZ Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund to Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.

Arizona Centennial Trivia

From The Arizona Trivia Book by James E. Cook
 Overflow from Roosevelt Dam was captured April 14, 1915, to christen what Navy vessel?
 (Answer on Page 8)



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Looking Out for Us

On November 15 MOAA was recognized by *The Hill* newspaper, which has the highest circulation on Capitol Hill, as being one of the nation's top 50 advocacy groups. This was the sixth year in a row that MOAA has been so honored and the fourth year in a row that we have been the only military or veteran group so recognized.

This could not have happened without our MOAA staff in Washington, D.C., having a solid understanding of the Washington legislative landscape and an astute and adaptable plan for dealing with it effectively. It also could not have happened without the grassroots support that we in our MOAA chapters provide. MOAA recently reported that in just over two weeks from the time MOAA National had requested support on issues associated with the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill MOAA members had sent more than 90,000 messages to the Hill through MOAA's website. I'm sure that the preponderance of those e-mails came from chapter members, and we thank you for that.

The Rest of the Story

So, that's the good news, now what is the rest of the story? A recent article in *The Arizona Republic* from an Associated Press contributor did a very good job of describing the situation. It noted that with the election over a new campaign is being waged as lobbyists, advocacy groups and trade groups fight to shape to their advantage the government's response to the looming fiscal cliff. It further suggested that instead of digging for more tax dollars, the lobbying effort is focused on protecting what they already have. The effort is mainly trying to control the damage as Congress and the White House look to raise taxes and cut spending in an attempt to get a handle on the government's debt. More specifically most of us understand that the deficit needs to be significantly reduced, but no one wants their taxes raised and neither do they want spending cuts on programs that directly affect them.

Guarding Against Disproportionate Hits

This is exactly the scenario that MOAA projected months ago and the one that our strategy is currently focused on. Yes, we still want to correct the significant inequities that still exist for our military, our veterans, their families and their survivors. We will continue to advocate for them, but a significant effort has to be directed toward "protecting what we have achieved" or more correctly in making sure that we do not take disproportionate hits. If anyone still thinks that as the nation eventually faces the deficit issue squarely we will escape without impact over the coming months and years, well then you are certainly more of an optimist than I am. It's vitally important that we all stand together and continue to provide our timely grassroots support to MOAA national on the legislative issues that affect us as they surface in our nation's Capitol.

Critical Issues Yet to be Addressed

Without belaboring the point, let me tick off yet again the significant events on the legislative horizon:

- The FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill (potentially significant pharmacy increases)
- Mandated end to temporary reductions in Social Security tax
- Mandated end to the Bush era tax cuts (1/2 of the fiscal cliff)
- Mandated sequestration budget cuts with half going to defense (other 1/2 of the fiscal cliff)
- Mandated cuts of around 27% to Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors
- The national debt reaching the legal threshold once again
- Completion of the FY2013 Appropriations Bills
- Beginning of the FY 2014 budget process

So with that, please have a happy holiday season, but also stay tuned for requests for legislative help from MOAA.

Need a Ride?

Don't miss the December luncheon and party for lack of transportation. If you need a ride, just call Jim Draper, 480-483-7769.

He will arrange for a chapter member to give you a ride to and from the meeting. Be sure to give him advance notice so he has time to make arrangements with another member.



Keeping Vigil

Even as Hurricane Sandy roared up the East Coast, the Army's 3rd Infantry Honor Guard maintained its around the clock vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

December Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: December 15, 2012
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
11:45 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$20 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Chicken Marsala, mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, tossed salad, bread, dessert, coffee and tea.

PROGRAM: Seasonal serenade by the Carefree Christmas Chorus, followed by our annual gift auction. Gifts provided by the Chapter Board of Directors.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

**YOUR PRESCRIPTION.
OUR MISSION.**



Taking command of your prescriptions may be the easiest order you ever followed.

Get dinner brought to your door and you'll pay a delivery charge. Same way with groceries. But that scenario changes with the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy: You actually save money with Home Delivery on the cost of prescriptions you take regularly.

You'll save on copayment costs by ordering fewer refills throughout the year. For the cost of only one copayment, you receive up to a 90-day supply* of your medication with free shipping by standard mail.

Get your prescription mail-order form at www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE or call toll-free 1.866.DOD.TMOP (1.866.363.8667) and start saving immediately.



*The DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/am.op.cfm.

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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 \$ _____ (**\$20.00 per person**) for **December 15, 2012**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **December 11, 2012**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.** wroscher@cox.net

Welcome All Our Newest Members

Donald J. Couture, Col USAF (Ret)
And his wife Elaine, Scottsdale
Daniel E. Sagramoso, LTC USA (Ret)
And his wife Clea, Phoenix
Jack Sides, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
And his wife Judy, Scottsdale
Barbara Tizard, Auxiliary
Phoenix

Please meet and greet our new members.

Trivia Answer: The battleship U.S.S. Arizona.

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2012 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT COL John Ady USAR 480-596-0780	NEWSLETTER EDITOR LTC Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	CHAPLAIN Vacant
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT COL Rob Welch, USA 623-533-3704	ADVERTISING LTC Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	PERSONAL AFFAIRS CAPT Dan Conway USCGR 480-368-1427
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DIRECTORS CAPT Frank Hoak USN, Lt Col Ron Green USA, COL Rance Farrell USA, COL Nancy Burt USA, CDR Jim Draper USN	MEMBERSHIP Col Ron Perkins USAF 480-961-8632	WEBMASTER COL Rob Welch USA 623-533-3704
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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: www.azmoaa.org

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



**Dues
Renewal
Time**

See Page 2

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On Your Vehicle. Show How
Veterans Help Veterans.