



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive

Anthem, AZ 85068

FEBRUARY 2013

CHARTERED 1956

56 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

### President's Perspective

by Rob Welch



#### As We Move Forward

On behalf of the 2013 Board of Directors, I want to thank you all for entrusting us with the responsibility of running the day-to-day operations of your chapter. We serve because of you, so please take advantage of our commitment to you by offering support and recommendations on how to make our chapter meet the needs of you and your family, and the needs of our fellow veterans here in the Valley of the Sun.

We had a banner year in 2012, and your new Board of Directors will work hard to maintain the high level of excellence of our predecessors. Our chapter took three first places in MOAA's communications competition last year, and we are striving for a repeat this year. We have updated our recruiting brochure, building on the success of the one developed by Terry Tassin and Dan Conway several

years ago, which is sure to win this category again. We have also entered our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, and our chapter's fine website, [www.azmoaa.org](http://www.azmoaa.org), for awards.

The annual StandDown for homeless veterans will take place Friday, March 8, through Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. As in the past, it will be held at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

Please consider helping fellow veterans who are less fortunate than you and I. You can sign up online, or call me at (623) 533-3704 and I will sign you up.

My wife, Ronnie, and I have signed up to volunteer on Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope you also take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help homeless veterans.

Together, as one voice, we can make a difference.

The following is a lot of detail on how to sign up

for the StandDown. Sometimes, though, it is better to say too much than too little. So, if you don't need detailed instructions, disregard and go read the other great articles in this newsletter.

Online, you can sign-up two ways. The first is to go directly to the StandDown website, [www.arizonastanddown.org/](http://www.arizonastanddown.org/) Once there, click on the "Volunteer" tab on the upper menu bar. Scroll down the page to the "Project Connect Guest Guide" for the day you wish to volunteer. Then click on the "Register" button for that day, and fill out the form. It's that simple.

I also placed a link to the StandDown website on our chapter website, [www.azmoaa.org/](http://www.azmoaa.org/) Once there, hover over "NEWSROOM" and click on "WEB LINKS". Scroll down to the bottom of the page under the caption "Veteran Support" and click on Arizona StandDown. Once there, follow the instructions in the above paragraph.

#### 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:

- February 7
- March 7

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:

- February 16
- March 16

#### In this Issue

- Page 2
  - January Program
  - New Member
  - Dues Renewal Form
- Page 3
  - Christmas Serenade
  - Holiday Party
- Page 4
  - Proposed Bylaws Change
  - Pearl Harbor Wreath
  - Honoring Marie
  - MSA Award
- Page 5
  - Personal Affairs
  - Scholarship Donations
- Page 6
  - Legislative Update
  - Meet A President
- Page 7
  - Meal Price Change
  - Meal Reservation & Donation Forms
- Page 8
  - Chapter Staff

Presidents Day  
February 18

2013 Dues Are Due  
See Page 2

**January Speaker**

**From Hit Man to Arson Investigator**

Jack Ballentine was a “chameleon” for 15 years as an undercover hit man with the Phoenix Police Department.



Ballentine described his experience taking on the persona of such intimidators as a motorcycle gang warlord, mob boss and disgruntled veteran at the January luncheon. He was approached over 200 times to make a hit because, as he said, “There are a lot of people who want someone killed.” Twenty-four of the 200 actually agreed to have him follow through, and all were indicted and imprisoned for conspiracy to commit murder.

Ballentine wrote a book, *Murder for Hire*, about his experiences. All proceeds go to the 100 Club of Arizona, which helps families of public safety members killed or are injured in the line of duty.

He made the transition from PD hit man to arson investigator and today serves as Fire Marshal for the Phoenix Fire Department..

The arson unit was under trained and under staffed when Ballentine arrived. The clearance rate on arson investigations was only 8%, compared with the national average of 18%. Today, the arson unit has a larger staff and Sadie, a canine whose nose can sniff out the spot where an accelerant was used. And in 2012, the unit recorded a 61% clearance rate.

**Note:** *If you would like a signed copy of Jack Ballentine’s book, send a check for \$25 made out to The 100 Club to Rob Welch, 42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive, Anthem, AZ 85068. He will arrange to get the book to you.*

**Member’s Spotlight**

**Kite Shoot Down Gets Good Reviews**

Fighter pilots have plenty of stories to tell, but few can talk about the day they shot down a kite. Ron Green can .



Ron recounted his tale as the January Spotlight speaker. He was stationed in Thailand toward the end of the Vietnam War. One day he was an F-4 instructor pilot for two lieutenants. As they approached the base to land, Ron noticed a large kite being flown very high near the end of the field, right in their path.

Avoidance would require a difficult maneuver, so Ron took action. He shot down the kite.

The ground crews greeted him excitedly at the deed, but the next day he was called to a revetment, and he thought he was in trouble. There were about 50 people waiting, but he wasn’t in trouble. They were there to congratulate him again for eliminating a safety hazard. The moral of the story: “If the option is a MIG or a kite, take the kite,” Ron said. “It doesn’t shoot back.”

**Time’s Running Out for 2013 Chapter Membership Renewal**

Annual membership renewals were due December 31. 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 Treasurer 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 \_\_ , **\$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**

**February Program**

**Explore the 16th Century New World**

Chapter member Dr. Paul Schnur, an accomplished historian and lecturer, will provide a fascinating program on the Spanish Explorer Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, the first explorer from the Old World to venture into the American West.



Cabeza de Vaca was part of an expedition that left from Spain in 1527, landing in what is now Florida. The group met with tragedy, and the number of survivors dwindled as they crossed the Gulf Coast into Texas toward Mexico. With only four survivors left, including

Cabeza de Vaca, they met up with another group of Spaniards in 1536 in Mexico.

Send in your reservation now so you can hear the full incredible story.



**TAPS**

We recently learned of the passing  
of one of our members:

**Robert G. Jones, CW4 USAR (Ret)**  
December 12, 2012

*We extend heartfelt condolences to the  
family.*



**Chapter Golf Tournament; Join Us to Raise Funds for Scholarships**

The Arizona Chapter Golf Tournament is set for **Thursday, April 18**, at Starfire Golf Club, 11500 N. Hayden, Scottsdale. This is a fun event and we would like to have as many MOAA members and guests as possible participate. This is one of a limited number of methods we use to raise funds for our Chapter Scholarship Fund, which helps graduating high school Junior ROTC seniors attend college. So come on out and have some fun and help us send outstanding students to college.

The entry fee is \$70 and covers everything, including handouts, all prizes including a \$1,000 Hole-In-One prize, cart, BBQ lunch to follow with a great hamburger, chips, water and ice tea. Just about everybody wins! All Mulligan money, 50% of the 50-50 drawing and 50% of skin game collections go to the Scholarship Fund, as well as donations and hole sponsor fees. Check-in starts at 6:30 a.m., with shotgun start at 8. Use the form below to register. Registration must be received no later than April 11.

----- Clip and Mail with Check -----

**Arizona Chapter MOAA Golf Tournament  
HERE IS MY REGISTRATION SLIP AND ENTRY FEE.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

I would like to be partnered with: [names] \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry slip and fees to:

Pat Dale, Tournament Chairman  
12633 E. Kalil Dr  
Scottsdale, AZ 85259  
E-mail: [patrickdale1@cox.net](mailto:patrickdale1@cox.net)  
Phone: 480-661-5204



Make checks out to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ included for \_\_\_\_\_ players (\$70 each).



**2013 Officers.** New chapter officers were inducted at the January luncheon. From left are, Rob Welch, president; Jim Cullison, 1st VP; Frank Hoak, 2nd VP; Leonore Hoak, secretary; Bill Roscher, treasurer; directors Ron Green, Nancy Burt and Jim Draper, and John Ady, immediate past president. Unable to attend were directors Dave Sale and Rance Farrell.

### MOAA Enhances Chapter Recruiting

MOAA began a new chapter recruiting program this year to replace Give Me 10. The program features three membership categories:

**Basic**, for younger officers still in uniform. This category replaces the complimentary membership and emphasizes MOAA's strong advocacy for their interests, provides tailored communications regarding legislative issues affecting them and their families, and describes the importance of chapter membership and how to locate their nearest chapter.

**Premium**, a paid category that offers a better package of services, including career coaching, financial and insurance advice, and building on the ideal of chapter membership as part of their MOAA experience. Auxiliary members fall in this category.

**Life Member**, the same as previous life membership, which represents half of today's MOAA members. This category will include transferability to spouses.

The new program also will feature improved accuracy of information on potential members and recruiting lists MOAA sends to chapters.

Complete details can be found in the January edition of *Military Officer* magazine and on the MOAA website, [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org).

### Did You Get a New SmartPhone?

Bring your old cell phone to a chapter meeting for the **Cell Phones for Soldiers** program. The phones are exchanged for calling cards that are distributed to deployed service members so they can keep in touch with family members.

### Did You Know?

Arizona Senator Carl Hayden, as president pro tem of the Senate, was acting vice president after President Kennedy was assassinated.

### Copper Shield/Sword Dinner Set

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society's **Copper Shield/Copper Sword** awards dinner will be held on **February 13** at Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. Tickets are \$61.60 for HOF members/spouses, and \$76.75 for all others.

This year's event will honor ASU President Dr. Michael Crow and State Rep. Heather Carter. Dr. Crow created a variety of programs for student veterans and led efforts to establish Navy ROTC at ASU. Rep. Carter introduced and championed a bill, now law, giving veterans preference points in seeking employment.

If you would like to attend or are attending, let Rob Welch know as soon as possible, and he will arrange for a Chapter table. "Ronnie and I will be going. It would be nice to fill a table for 10 with chapter members," Rob said.

More information and registration can be found on the Veterans Hall of Fame website, <http://avhof.org>.



Security of your personal information and that of your family and friends should be paramount in your mind whenever you are using the internet and responding to e-mails. Our chapter website contains many tips and links to government agencies which provide information on how to protect your information from theft. Go to <http://azmoaa.org/newsroom/security/>

**NOTICE:** Our website has a new, shorter and easier to remember and type web address. It is [www.azmoaa.org](http://www.azmoaa.org). Our old web address will temporarily take you to the new address, but not for long. **The forwarding will stop on February 10**, so please put the new website address in your Favorites menu.



**Personal Affairs**  
by *Dan Conway*  
*Personal Affairs Officer*

## The Gullibility Factor and What You Can Do About It

The success of nearly every scam that confronts us depends on one single factor: gullibility, our willingness to believe something that's untrue, and then to take action that involves giving away money or information, circulating untrue e-mails, or downloading malware onto our computers.

But how susceptible are you and is there anything you can do about it? Until recently, there's been very little research into the subject, but what we do know is that pretty much every individual is capable of being, and indeed has been tricked, and that intelligence is no defense against the gullibility factor. However, studies do suggest that some of us are more gullible than others and that our susceptibility varies according to our circumstances and even the time of day. For example, we are more likely to fall for a scam if we are tired.

**A recent gullibility survey** identified the following characteristics:

- \* Among vulnerable categories, younger people are more likely to fall for a scam than seniors.
- \* Bogus prizes and antivirus software are the most successful at fooling people.
- \* Supporters of the two main political parties are equally gullible when it comes to believing things that are untrue, not just in politics but in all aspects of life.
- \* Most of us think we're better at identifying scams than we really are.

The survey reports that gullibility relies on four factors: Our human tendency to follow the crowd -- if everyone's doing it, we believe it must be okay, even if it isn't; our ability to think through the information or situation we encounter, which can abandon us under pressure or if we're tired; a weak personality -- just a tendency to be more trusting and more ready to believe what we're told; and our

emotional state at any particular time, which is why scammers try to wear us down or pressure us to "act now" and, why, sadly, they like to hit victims when they are already down.

**Here are seven ideas** which may help you to reduce your gullibility.

- 1. Simply being aware** of how easy it is to fall for a scam puts you on your guard and lowers your risk of being scammed.
- 2. Avoid rushing decisions.** Refuse to be pressured and allow yourself time to think things through. This can even apply to forwarding e-mails. Stop and think: can this really be true?
- 3. Steer clear of situations** where you know you're more vulnerable. For example, if you tend to weaken easily under pressure, don't get caught up in conversations with high-pressure sales people.
- 4. Don't allow yourself to believe** you're scam-proof. You're not, and admitting your potential vulnerability will strengthen your sense of skepticism.
- 5. Practice "disengaging."** Forget about being polite and hearing out someone who's trying to convince you. Hang up, walk away, do whatever you need to do to avoid hearing the patter that might ultimately wear you down.
- 6. Educate yourself.** The more you read and learn about the way people fall for scams, the more your own gullibility defenses will be strengthened.
- 7. Don't follow the crowd.** Realize that people you know and trust may be unreliable, unintentionally or otherwise. Form your own opinions based on research and what you know to be true.

Don't forget, too, that you can help others by tactfully pointing out their potential vulnerability, highlighting scam incidents and letting them know that gullibility is not a sign of low intelligence -- it's a fact of life.

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**



## Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

### What's Ahead in the Coming Months?

The lame duck session of the federal legislature accomplished about what we expected them to do as 2012 came to a close. They managed to pass the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill, which the President signed into law in early January along with legislation that avoided the country going over the fiscal cliff. Among the significant items included were: a 1.7% pay raise for our military, a cap on TRICARE retail pharmacy copayment increases in exchange for a one-year trial of using either the mail order pharmacy or military pharmacies for TRICARE for Life members and avoiding once again a steep increase in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors, which would have made it extremely difficult to find a doctor willing to participate.

**With the new Congress now in session** is there reason for hope or are we faced with continuing gridlock? As this article is being written, the House approved a bill to extend the nation's \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling through May 18, a four month extension, in order to avert a default to its current obligations. The proposal includes a provision that requires both the House and Senate to pass respective budgets by April 15 or lose their pay checks. The Senate is expected to also pass the bill and the President is expected to sign it.

So, on the surface of it, there is reason for hope. However, the job isn't done when the two Houses of Congress pass their respective budgets. They must eventually be reconciled so that in the end there is one set of fiscal year appropriations bills that the President will sign. Keep in mind that for the last three years the House has passed budget bills that the Senate would not even consider, and the Senate failed to produce a budget bill at all. This action certainly buys some time for the process to unfold, so we have more hope than we did. Ultimately time will tell if it is enough.

**The new set of near term critical milestones** now stacks up like this:

1. **Mid-February:** the President will send to

Congress his fiscal year (FY2014) budget submission. This is a critical path item in that it is MOAA's first opportunity to see what the Administration's priorities will be for the coming year. It forms the basis of what items MOAA will be advocating for or against in our annual Storming the Hill in April.

2. **March 1:** Sequestration automatically takes effect unless Congress adopts an alternative. This is a \$1 trillion, 10-year across the board budget cut with defense taking about half of it, an action that DOD says would be devastating.
3. **March 27:** the continuing resolution under which the federal government now is continuing to operate at FY2012 levels (since they didn't pass any FY2013 Appropriations Bills) expires. Without a further extension or the passing of the necessary FY2013 Appropriations Bills the Government will shut down.
4. **April 15:** the respective House and Senate budget bills are due. This is supposed to effectively set the spending limitations for the coming year and form the basis of the coming year's (FY2014) Appropriations Bills
5. **May 18:** the nation's debt ceiling needs to be dealt with again.

As I mentioned, the President's budget request in February will set the stage for the three or four items that MOAA will advocate for during our April Storming the Hill. This is by far not all that MOAA will be working on with Congress throughout the year. For an excellent summary of MOAA's legislative priorities I refer you to the January edition of the MOAA magazine. Also, all 36 items are listed on the MOAA website under Selected Legislative Goals for 2013.

**There is so far very little news from our Arizona Legislature** on any pending bills at the state level that would affect the military or veterans. Most activity to date has been devoted to the budget. The Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs has a small state-funded budget in comparison with most other departments, so usually gets only modest attention during the budget process. The reason the budget is small is that most activities under the department's

*Continued on Page 8*

**Donations to Scholarship Fund**

- Dorothy Jones \$50**  
In Memory of her Husband, Robert
- Arizona Chapter \$50**  
In Memory of Robert Jones
- Frank Birtciel \$100**
- Richard Mesh \$20**
- Jill Nelson \$250**
- John Simmons \$50**
- George Hadley \$56**

**February Luncheon Meeting**

**WHEN:** February 16, 2013  
11:00 a.m. Social Hour  
Noon Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**COST:** \$22 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU:** Chicken Cordon Bleu with herbed rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, salad, bread and butter, and cherry cobbler.

**PROGRAM:** Chapter member Dr. Paul Schnur will recount the arduous journey of Spanish Explorer Cabeza de Vaca across North America in the 16th Century.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12. 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](http://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/mop.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/mop.cfm).

© 2007 Express Scripts, Inc. All Rights Reserved DD007-40752

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$22.00 per person**) for **February 16, 2013**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **February 12, 2013**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.** [wroscher@cox.net](mailto:wroscher@cox.net)

## Legislative Update...Continued

responsibilities such as the veteran's homes, the veteran cemeteries and the veteran fiduciary responsibilities are self-funded and self-sustaining. The one newsworthy item is that the Arizona House of Representatives is in the process of establishing a bipartisan veteran's caucus that will focus on issues affecting veterans across the state. This should be a useful focal point for veteran's organizations to seek support on issues affecting their members.

### The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2013 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

<b>PRESIDENT</b> COL Rob Welch, USA	623-533-3704	USN, COL Dave Sale		<b>AUXILIARY LIAISON</b> COL Nancy Burt USA	480-634-6105
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF	602-482-3838	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> LTC Jim Cullison USAF	602-482-3838	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> Vacant	
<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b> CAPT Frank Hoak, USN	480-664-0047	<b>ADVERTISING</b> LTC Jim Cullison USAF	602-482-3838	<b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b> CAPT Dan Conway USCGR	480-368-1427
<b>SECRETARY</b> Leonore Hoak	480-664-0047	<b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS</b> COL Ron Perkins, USAF	480-961-8632	<b>PROGRAMS</b> COL John Ady USA	480-596-0780
<b>TREASURER</b> COL Bill Roscher USA	480-948-3609	<b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b> LTC Jim Cullison USAF	602-482-3838	<b>ARRANGEMENTS</b> Arlene Day	480-837-1900
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> COL John Ady USA	480-596-0780	<b>JROTC AWARDS</b> LCDR Terry Tassin USN	623-931-1546	<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> COL Rob Welch USA	623-533-3704
<b>DIRECTORS</b> Lt Col Ron Green USAF, COL Rance Farrell USA, COL Nancy Burt USA, CDR Jim Draper		<b>LEGISLATIVE</b> Col Gary Fredricks USAF	480-836-8419	<b>TOPS LIAISON</b> CAPT Frank Hoak USN	480-664-0047
		<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Col Ron Perkins USAF	480-961-8632	<b>WEBMASTER</b>	

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [www.azmoaa.org](http://www.azmoaa.org)

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



**Address Service Requested**



Show Your Colors By Proudly Displaying The Arizona 'Veteran Plate' On Your Vehicle. Show How Veterans Help Veterans.