



# THE ARIZONA CHAPTER

## Military Officers Association of America

### Arizona's First Chapter



## Minutes of February 16, 2013 General Meeting Arizona Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. President Rob Welch called the meeting to order at 1145 hours and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given by a guest of Ron Green, Lt Col Gary Brooks, USAF (R).

**Members Present:** President Rob Welch welcomed all present and all guests were recognized with a brief personal introduction. The total attendance was 52.

### CHAPTER REPORTS

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Roscher reported \$9,585.62 in the General Fund, \$15,188.77 in the Scholarship Fund and \$50.00 in Petty Cash for a total of \$24,824.39.

**Website:** Rob Welch, President, reminded everyone that our old website is no longer running, and therefore cannot direct you to our new website. Rob suggested our new website address [www.azmoaa.org](http://www.azmoaa.org) be added to each member's favorites. Any chapter officer or committee chair can now be contacted by simply typing in their title and "@azmoaa.org" as an email address, and it will go to that person. For example, if you want to contact Pat Dale about our golf tournament, type in [golf@azmoaa.org](mailto:golf@azmoaa.org) and Pat will receive it.

**JROTC Awards:** Terry Tassin is currently scheduling members to present one of our JROTC Leadership Awards at local high schools. Presenters are needed for nine schools. Please call Terry at home, or send him an email at [jrotc@azmoaa.org](mailto:jrotc@azmoaa.org) to volunteer for one of the presentations.

**Golf Tournament:** Our golf tournament is currently accepting player sign-up. The date is Thursday, April 18th. There were tournament sign-up sheets on each table. For those not signing up during the luncheon meeting Rob Welch asked members to contact Pat Dale at his home, or email him at [golf@azmoaa.org](mailto:golf@azmoaa.org).

**Telephones For Troops:** We are still collecting cell phones, and have collected 133 so far, as well as 68 devices. For each donated item, we receive 2 calling cards. Each calling card has 1 hour talking time worth \$4. That means that 402 servicemen are able to talk to their loved ones from overseas for an hour apiece, totaling 24,120 minutes worth \$1,608. Rob Welch asked to please continue to donate your old cell phones to your chapter as you upgrade your phones to the new 4g technology. Just bring them in to a monthly luncheon meeting and leave them on the dais.



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**AZ StandDown, March 8-10, 2013:** The StandDown website has numerous volunteer opportunities available. Rob Welch encouraged all members to consider signing up to assist with a worthy cause. If you do volunteer, please let Rob know the date and hours you worked so our chapter can get credit for it. Members could see Rob following the meeting for contact information to sign up or go to the StandDown website.

**Legislative:** On the National level, the White House has not provided any specific leadership during this period for the Congress to act upon. The following two major milestones are cresting on the horizon while a sit & wait attitude prevails:

- Mid February Budget
- March 1<sup>st</sup> Sequestration

On the State level, three bills have surfaced of interest to veteran's pocketbooks:

- HB-2391. Would exempt 100% of military pay or military retiree pay from AZ State Income Tax. Rumor is that the State cannot afford it, and that it will go no place. There are nine Sponsors. Assigned to committees: Ways & Means, Appropriations & Rules.
- HB-2076. Drafted/Pushed by the Green Valley Chapter. Would give service members credit for service education, training or experience as a member of the armed forces, when applying for a license, certificate or registration requiring said qualities. There are 21 sponsors so far. It is currently in the House Public Safety, Military and Regulatory Affairs Committee.
- SB 1287 will provide an increase in the amount that can be subtracted from Arizona gross income of Military Retirees from the current "up to \$2500" annually to "up to \$5000" annually.

**Membership:** As of the beginning of the month, we had 225 members. Members are asked to please renew their membership for 2013 as soon as possible.

**Board Vacancies:** Rob Welch announced we have three board and program vacancies: Chaplain, Director, and Public Information Officer. Anyone interested in any of these positions, or knows of anyone who might be, please contact Rob at [president@azmoaa.org](mailto:president@azmoaa.org) .

**Goals & Objectives:** President Rob Welch explained his 2013 goals and objectives for our chapter:

- Build Chapter Membership. The goal is for a 5% net increase in chapter membership. This goal will be reached through membership drives and retention efforts.
- Improve Chapter Visibility. The goal is to fill the newly created Public Information Officer position, and task that person with developing a proactive public information process that will insure that what we do is highly visible to the media.



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- Involve more of our members in programs which help our community's veterans and youths wishing to take the military a career. Among other things, this goal will require revising our By-Laws to give more of our members an active vote in what we do.

**Member's Spotlight:** Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF (Ret), shared one of his memorable moments while serving as one of ten Air Force personnel on an island in the Taiwan Strait in 1967. It involved the rescue of two airmen who had taken a miniature sailboat into the Strait. Unfortunately the current carried them away from the island directly towards Red China. Jim recognized the problem and with another Lieutenant persuaded a couple Chinese fishermen to take their boat out and rescue the airmen, bringing them back to the cheers of many Chinese villagers. Jim said there was a lesson learned from the experience; it reinforced the fact that they were airmen and not seamen!

**Introduction of Guest Speaker:** Rob Welch introduced the day's speaker and fellow chapter member, Dr. Paul Schnur. Dr. Schnur, CPT, USA (Frm), is a retired surgeon and world traveler who has gone on many medical missions and is a lecturer on cruise ships and at historical society meetings.

**Speaker:** Dr. Schnur's topic was "Cabeza de Vaca's Incredible Journey – The First Crossing of North America". On Good Friday 1528, an army of four hundred Spaniard, African, and Caribbean natives landed in the vicinity of Tampa Bay, Florida, under the command of a middle-aged conquistador, Panfilo de Narvaez, with a last-chance license to conquer North America. They promptly disappeared without a trace into the swamps and, except for a small contingent that remained on board the ships, were soon assumed to be dead. But then, eight years and thousands of miles later, three Spaniards and a Moroccan led by Cabeza de Vaca had journeyed across what is now the Southern and Southwestern United States into Mexico. There they were finally rescued by a party of Spaniards who were very startled to find that they were still alive.

**Presentation:** President Rob Welch presented Dr. Schnur with a gift of appreciation for his time and fascinating program.

**Book Auction:** Dr. Schnur offered a book entitled "DeGrazia Paints CABEZA de VACA" for auction to benefit the chapter scholarship fund. Jim Cullison had the winning bid of \$25.

**Baseball Ticket Auction:** Rob Welch announced chapter member Jeff Young donated to our chapter four Spring training tickets (Giants versus Padres) to be auctioned off, with the proceeds going into our Scholarship Fund. Each ticket has a face value of \$24. Jim Cullison was also the lucky winner with the highest bid of \$100.

**50/50 Raffle:** \$65 was awarded by Bill Roscher and \$71 was added to the Scholarship Fund.



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**Monthly Luncheon Drawing:** Pat Dale was the winner and recipient of a complimentary luncheon for the March General Meeting.

**Reminders:** Next Board of Directors Meeting is Thursday, March 7, 2013.  
Next Chapter Meeting is Saturday, March 16, 2013.  
Annual dues are due.

**Adjournment:** 1355

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Cullison, Temporary Substitute Secretary