



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive

Anthem, AZ 85068

MAY 2013

CHARTERED 1956

56 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by Rob Welch



Legislator Briefs Us

Those of you who missed our breakfast meeting April 20 missed a very informative briefing by Congressman David Schweikert.

You can read about what you missed later in this publication, or in the minutes of the meeting on our chapter web site: www.azmoaa.org.

Another Hat Trick

For the second year in a row, our chapter has won three first place awards in the national MOAA communications contest. We are the first chapter in MOAA to have received such an outstanding honor.

Once again our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, took top honors in that category. This is the second year in a row that *The Sentinel* has taken first prize. Our thanks and gratitude for his fine efforts and many hours spent on putting together this award winning publication go to its editor, Jim Cullison. Thanks, Jim!

For the third year in a row, our web site, www.azmoaa.org, has taken first prize in its category. Yours truly is the webmaster.

Also for the third year in a row, our *Recruiting Brochure* has taken first prize in that category. This year our brochure was updated and redesigned, yet it retained all the excellent qualities that made it a winner the previous two years. This was a team effort by John Ady, Gary Fredricks, Ron Perkins, Chuck Schluter and coordinated by yours truly. We built on the previous work done by Dan Conway and Terry Tassin. Congratulations, and thanks to all. What a team!

New PIO/PAO

Our first news release by our new Public Information Officer, LCDR Mark Day, USN (Frm), has produced inquiries regarding membership in our chapter.

If you have an idea

that you feel might be newsworthy involving chapter activities, please pass along that information to Mark at pio@azmoaa.org.

Water for Vets

Our chapter is collecting donations again this year to purchase water for our homeless veterans. The water will be delivered to the Madison Street Veterans Association's MANA House.

Lt Col Ron Green is our coordinator for this project, which is a joint effort funded by our chapter and Ron's church, the Desert Hills Lutheran Church in North Scottsdale. You can e-mail Ron at water@azmoaa.org.

Chaplain Search

We still have a vacancy for a chaplain to serve our chapter. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact me at president@azmoaa.org.

Come on Out to the Ballgame!

The Chapter is planning a night at the ballpark as a summer get-together. Find details on page 4.

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 welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

- May 2
 - September 5
- Member Meetings/ Luncheons** are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1200, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club.

Upcoming meetings:

- May 18
 - September 21
- Night at the Ball Park**
July 5

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Annual Scholarship Awards to Highlight May Meeting

Four scholarships will be awarded to JROTC cadets at our May business luncheon May 18.

For the first time, all recipients of our scholarships have expressed a desire to serve in the military as officers, following in our footsteps.

Two of the cadets are male and two are female. Two are from Army and two from Air Force JROTC high schools.

Please attend the May luncheon and listen as each cadet gives a short minute presentation on his or her career aspirations and how they will use their scholarship award.

Dust Off Your Uniform

Let's show solidarity with our recipients as they prepare for their military service by wearing your uniform or your medals to the meeting.

Meetings Take a Summer Break, But Program Planning Continues

Summer's almost here, and the May meeting is the last until September. This is the last edition of *The Sentinel* until September as well.

John Ady, chapter program chairman, is working on our programs for Fall 2013 and all of 2014. If there is a subject matter or particular speaker you think would be of interest to the chapter, contact John at 480-364-8080 or john.ady80@gmail.com.

Chapter to Provide Color Guard, Wreath at Memorial Day Observance

The Arizona Chapter's tradition of having a color guard at the annual Memorial Day tribute at the Veterans National Cemetery in Phoenix continues this year. Also this year, chapter members will place a commemorative wreath in front of the reviewing stand, along with other veterans organizations.

The event begins at 8 a.m. Monday, May 27, at the cemetery, 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd.

5 Good Reasons to Fly the Flag This Summer

May 27, Memorial Day.

June 14, Flag Day and the U.S. Army's 238th birthday.

July 4, Independence Day

August 4, U.S. Coast Guard's 217th birthday.



Medal Presentations Underway

James "Andy" Andrews presents a MOAA leadership medal to JROTC Cadet Major Macey Alcott at North High School. Andy is one of 14 chapter members presenting MOAA medals at JROTC awards ceremonies at 17 area high schools during April and May.

JROTC Awards Chairman Terry Tassin lined up the presenters and coordinated the arrangements with the JROTC instructors at each school.

Donations to Scholarship Fund

Ron Green \$50

In Memory of Dick Hoover

Gene Rafanelli \$20

TOPS Tips

By Frank Hoak III, TOPS Chair

A number of employment resources for veterans and their families are available, but the best place to start is the Arizona Coalition for Military Families Employment Resources Center.

Think of it as a clearinghouse for various veterans programs across the state.

Phone: 602-267-2534.

E-Mail: employment@arizonacoalition.org.

Online: arizonacoalition.org.



Chapter Golf Tourney Yields Fun for Players, Money for Scholarship Fund



April 18 was a great day for golf as 57 players hit the fairways for the chapter's scholarship fundraiser tournament. Among the golfers, Jeff Young, above left, addresses the tee while Larry DeSanto, watches his putt head for the cup as partners Charley Garrett and Dick Minor wait their turns. Tournament Chairman Pat Dale reports the event raised \$1,287 for the Scholarship Fund.

April Speaker

Legislator Addresses Issues

Congressman David Schweikert updated members on a variety of topics as our guest speaker in April. Below is a summary.

Veterans Issues: Problems with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, such as those being experienced in Arizona, are not uncommon. "Something is wrong in the discipline of the bureaucracy," he said. He is working to have a VA Oversight Committee hearing in Phoenix. "If someone is not getting an answer, call our office." He said there's agreement to do provisional approvals on disability claims, which should help get progress started.

TriCare For Life: He supports TFL and said a lot of legislators are not happy with the way TriCare formulas are built.

National Debt: The debt drives politics, and the "fussing and fighting" in D.C. is about money. The coming surge of Baby Boomer retirements makes the problem worse, since money has never been set aside for it.

The Budget: The House and Senate budgets are very different, "but at least we have something to work on. We've made more progress in the last 90 days than the last three years," he said.

Immigration: "I think we got the agriculture portion right," but there are problems in formulas, tort liability and the mechanics in other parts of the guest worker program. "The House will do something very different from the Senate."

Gun Control: The ban on assault rifles had no effect, and there is no statistical evidence that background checks work. "Are you willing to do things on mental health, on tort reform? On this we do have evidence. We have to stop talking about public policy based on feelings and do so on facts."

Meet Our Presidents

Jim Seidl, Coast Guard Aviator

(This is another in a periodic series of profiles of our past chapter presidents.)

LT James C. (Jim) Seidl, USCG (Ret) enlisted in 1941 and began a wide ranging career as a Coast Guard aviator. He rose through enlisted, Petty Officer and Warrant Officer ranks and retired as a Lieutenant after 30 years of service.



He was qualified in 18 different fixed wing aircraft and four helicopters and participated in many rescue operations and open-sea landings. In addition to many stateside assignments, his service included tours in Newfoundland and Greenland.

Upon retirement, he embarked on a second career in business management and was active in community service.

Jim served as the Arizona Chapter's 34th president in 1988 and also later served the chapter as Program Chairman. He was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006. Jim and his wife Toni reside in Phoenix, and he still is a member of our chapter.

Member's Spotlight

A Cache of Bombs; a Rescue at Sea

Terry Tassin, LCDR USN (Ret) had a lot of adventures during his 22 years in the Navy, and he shared two of them with members at the April meeting.

Terry is a "Mustang," a service member who enlisted and later earned a commission. During his six years as an enlistee, he was an explosive ordinance detail (EOD) technician on the USS Hornet, an anti-submarine aircraft carrier.

On one stop in Japan the ship was contacted for help when a bulldozer in the city of Yakusta fell into a hole, and a surprising discover was made. The hole was a forgotten World War II ammo dump full of unexploded bombs. They needed an EOD tech, and Terry was the man for the job. The bombs had to be hand excavated, defused and dumped into the sea.

The job took about four months, and Terry's ship had to leave before it was done. But he was there to get the dangerous work started.

A few years later, on his first ship after receiving his commission, he was on the guided missile destroyer USS Halsey off the coast of

North Vietnam. The ship performed search and rescue missions. One of the most dramatic occurred when two Sea King helicopters returning from the North after rescuing a group of Special Forces suffered battle damage. One made it back safely to the Halsey, but the other ran out of fuel and had to ditch in the ocean.

Terry's ship helped rescue the survivors, but the helicopter wouldn't sink and had to be scuttled so it wouldn't get into enemy hands.

Two memories of many from a memorable career.



Terry points to a survivor awaiting rescue, with the disabled Sea King, still afloat, shown at upper right.



Come On Out To The Ballgame!

Join fellow Arizona Chapter members as the Arizona Diamondbacks take on the Colorado Rockies on Military Appreciation Night at Chase Field.



When: Friday, July 5

What Time: Game starts at 6:40 p.m. with pregame ceremonies honoring veterans

How Much: Group discount price of \$12 per ticket.

Where: Upper deck, infield reserve along first base line, on or close to the front

Who can come: Members, spouses, kids, grandkids, nephews, nieces, friends

How do I sign up: Just fill out the form below and send it with your check, made out to **AZ Chapter MOAA**, no later than May 20 to:

Jim Cullison

13819 N. 51st St.

Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Phone 602-482-3838, E-mail: editor@azmoaa.org

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Check for _____ tickets at \$12 each enclosed. Tickets will be mailed to you after May 20.



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

A Busy Month...And More to Come

As we approach our annual MOAA Chapter summer break, legislative activity is still ongoing at both the state and federal levels with that at the federal level actually just getting started in earnest.

At the state level the legislative committee work should normally be done by now with the 100-day legislative session drawing to a close. However, the budget is still very much in debate with any new bills requiring significant budget being held in abeyance. At this point six bills, resolutions or memorials that potentially touch on the military or veterans are still in work. Five have been approved by the governor and one has been vetoed. HB 2243, which would increase exemption from state income tax for military retired pay from \$2,500 to \$5,000, is one of those being held by the budget discussions. I will compile a summary of state level legislative actions when they are complete and have it e-mailed to chapter members.

The week of April 15 was once again one of the busiest for MOAA for the year. It began with our spring MOAA Board of Directors meeting and followed with our annual recognition of significant supporters of our military and veteran community, our annual Storming the Hill session and concluded with the annual MOAA Council of Chapters President's Symposium. You can view film clips of most of these activities on the MOAA website at www.MOAA.org if you wish.

This year MOAA presented its Congressional leadership awards to five congressional senators and representatives. Honored were Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) for a range of initiatives to improve employment opportunities for transitioning service members and to Sens. Jack Reed (D-RI), Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) for championing TRICARE pharmacy legislation. We also presented our Distinguished Service Award to Caterpillar for hiring veterans and providing programs for

Guard and Reserve personnel and their families, and to Homes for Troops, a non-profit organization providing accessible homes at no cost to our severely wounded. Also recognized for work on behalf of veterans were John Chapta, professional staff member of the House Armed Services Committee, and Kate Mevis, legislative assistant to Senator Reed.

During our Storming the Hill day on April 17, along with about 150 other MOAA members doing the same for all the other states, we visited the offices of both Arizona senators and all nine Arizona representatives. Given the layout of the Senate and House office buildings on The Hill, participating in that many appointments makes for a very long day. It's always difficult to catch the congressmen in between committee meetings and floor votes, and this year was no exception. We did meet with key staffers on all occasions and actually met face to face with Reps. Gosar, Kirkpatrick, Barber, Grijalva, and Salmon.

This year the President's budget proposal for the coming fiscal year, normally released in mid-February, was not issued until April 10, just before our Storming the Hill. MOAA found much in the proposal to disagree with, but we chose to focus on two issues. The President's budget request proposed a cap of 1% on military pay as opposed to the 1.8% provided for by current law. In time of war, this would not be a good message to our troops. The President's budget also once again proposed significant cost increases for TRICARE and pharmacy.

Thanks to our advocacy, Congress just put in a cap last year that would limit increases to the cost of living that appears to have been completely ignored by DOD this year. We also reiterated our strong message on three long standing inequities that we have "stormed" on in previous years: the DIC offset to SBP for surviving spouses, remaining concurrent receipt omissions and some apparent errors in the law for Guard and Reserve retirement credit for active deployment. As an aside, MOAA led by our MOAA Auxiliary Member Committee is

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Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

End of Life Planning

This is mostly a repeat of my article of September 2009. If you read that article, took the recommended actions and are keeping your End of Life documents up to date, Congratulations! You can quit reading right now.

The reason for the repeat is threefold:

First, we have new members.

Second, some of you haven't taken the recommended actions.

Third, I recently attended a funeral for a MOAA member who had taken the recommended actions. The family shared with me how much less traumatic the loss was with everything planned and organized.

Here is a list of what you need:

- A Will.
- Durable Financial Power of Attorney.
- The following documents available from the Arizona Attorney General at www.azag.gov under the heading "Life Care Planning":
 - Durable Health Care Power of Attorney
 - Durable Mental Health Care Power of Attorney
 - Living Will
 - Letter to my agent
 - Pre-Hospital Medical Directive (Do Not Resuscitate)
- And last but not least: MOAA publication "Help Your Survivors Now". It is better if it is filled out. To get a copy, call MOAA Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622. Have your MOAA Membership number when you call. The publication is free. The workbook part of the publication called the "Personal Affairs Action Guide" can be filled out online at the MOAA web site.

Please consider me as a resource in your personal affairs concerns. I can be reached at 480-368-1427.

Daniel M. Conway

Legislative Update...Continued

organizing a second Storming the Hill session in July to advocate once again for fixing the DIC/SBP issue.

All those we talked with were knowledgeable and supportive of our positions. However, with the deficit and the debt ceiling once again approaching in the May/June time period, it's all going to be about the budget in the end when votes are actually required. It should be an interesting summer. Although our chapter goes dark in the summer months, MOAA National does not. So, keep a close eye out for requests from MOAA for grassroots correspondence from us in support of MOAA initiatives and actions. In the end it is to our personal benefit to do so.

Beware of This Scam

The VA has been notified of potential fraudulent attempts to contact veterans using VetSuccess.gov. Individuals making the contacts may be operating under names Auto-Desk, Venus Remedies or Aesculap Implant Systems. These are potential fake inquiries, and you should not communicate with or send any information to them. If you receive a suspicious e-mail, do not click on any links in the e-mail.

If you suspect you may be the victim of these suspicious activities, contact the VetSuccess.gov team at 206-461-9600 or vetsuccesstech.vbvaco@va.gov.

As a general rule, do not share the following information with suspicious parties: Social Security Number or other identification number, Driver License number, bank account or credit card information, passwords or date of birth.

Benefits Hotline for Women Vets Launched

The VA has established a hotline for inquiries from veterans, families and caregivers about services and resources available to women veterans. The number is 1-855-VA-WOMEN.

Callers can be linked to information on claims, education and health care assistance, VA cemeteries, memorial benefits and much more..

Women make up nearly 15% of active duty and 18% of Guard and Reserve forces. The number of women using VA health care has more than doubled since 2000.

Military Humor

Officer: "Soldier, do you have change for a 10?"
 Soldier: "Sure, pal."
 Officer: "That's no way to address an officer. Let's try again. Do you have change for a 10?"
 Soldier: "No, sir."

May Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: May 18, 2013
 11:00 a.m. Social Hour
 12:00 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
 Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$22 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Pan-seared salmon filet with herb butter, steamed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables, tossed salad, bread and butter, carrot cake.

Please contact Arlene Day (arlenebday@gmail.com or [480-353-6400](tel:480-353-6400)) if you have any allergy or dietary restriction issues with the menu.

PROGRAM: Presentation of scholarships to four outstanding JROTC cadets, with their brief summaries of their aspirations.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14. 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 \$ _____ (**\$22.00 per person**) for **May 18, 2013**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **Received No Later Than May14, 2013**

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

Tell Your Story for MOAA Video Collection

From the MOAA Affiliate Newsletter

National MOAA is producing a video collection featuring veterans and their personal experiences. Would you be willing to share your story of service and sacrifice? If your story is selected, a video production crew will visit you to document it. You must be a national member and willing to appear on camera. E-mail tellyourstory@moaa.org to submit a short summary of your story or for more information.

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

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Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
13819 N. 51st Street
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