



**THE ARIZONA CHAPTER**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
*Arizona's First Chapter*



Minutes of the December 5, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting  
Regional Training Institute, AZARNG, 5636 E. McDowell Rd, Phoenix AZ

**Call to Order:** President Rob Welch called the meeting to order at 1035 hours, Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the AZARNG Regional Training Institute, Phoenix with the Pledge of Allegiance

**Members Present:** John Ady, Nancy Burt, Jim Cullison, Jim Draper, Gary Fredricks, Ron Green, Corey Harris, Frank Hoak, Leonore Hoak, Lee Lange, Ron Perkins, Bill Roscher, Rob Welch

**President's Announcements:**

- President Rob Welch attended the annual MOAA national meeting where he received our chapter's 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive 5 Star Level of Excellence Award. The award streamer will be added to our organizational colors at the December 14 general meeting
- Rob requests that everyone wear their MSA ribbons to the December meeting as MSA awards will be presented at the luncheon
- Board members are reminded to bring one wrapped present for the Chinese auction at the December luncheon
- AZARNG has confirmed the new BOD meeting room to be at the Regional Training Institute

**OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by John Ady and seconded by Bill Roscher to waive reading last month's Minutes

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Roscher reports current figures of \$9,867.15 in the General Fund, \$14,130.16 in the Scholarship Fund and \$100.00 Petty Cash for a Grand Total of \$24,097.31

**Membership:** Dave Fleming reports a current total of 232 members; 193 regular members and 39 auxiliary members. Dave reports that we have 38 new members this quarter, 28 of which will count towards our national MOAA incentive. We are currently #2 nationally for our size chapter and #15 overall. Dave will speak briefly at the December luncheon to promote the expiring early dues payment discount; there has been an (early) very good response to the offer

**Arrangements:** Arlene Day reports that plans for the December 14 General Meeting are set with the final count of attendees due to Bill Roscher on Tuesday, December 10. This year's entertainment will be provided by the Dickens Carolers during the cocktail hour and after the business meeting. The 2014 meeting contract has been signed with McCormick Ranch

**Auxiliary & Wives:** Nancy Burt reports that this year's holiday cards to all auxiliary members were mailed the week of November 17 with an invitation to attend the December Luncheon, compliments of the Chapter, enclosed. To date, 3 auxiliary members have responded their acceptance; many others have called to thank the Chapter for their thoughts, card and invite



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**Council of Chapters:** Ron Perkins reports that he and Gary Fredricks will be meeting on December 14 with other local MOAA chapter members to assist with plans to start a Bullhead City/Kingman/Lake Havasu satellite chapter

**ESGR:** Chuck Schluter has no report this month

**Historian:** Jim Cullison has no report this month

**JROTC Awards:** Terry Tassin will be ordering this year's medal award packets after January 1, 2014

**JROTC Scholarship:** Rob Welch reports that letters for this year's scholarships will be sent in January to the schools; all requests should be returned to the Chapter in March; decisions will be made by the third week in April and the awards presented at the May 2014 General Meeting. He has received a scholarship consideration request from a local Charter School; he is awaiting further information for board review

**Legislative Affairs - Federal:** Gary Fredricks says there is no earth shattering news to report. The FY2014 Defense Authorization Bill is but one of many critical legislative actions pending in December. Both Gary and Ron Perkins request that all members/spouses take the time to support the national MOAA grass root initiatives and send out corresponding emails and postcards. For more detailed information, please read Gary's December Legislative Update in *The Sentinel*

**Legislative Affairs – State:** Corey Harris reports that in the past, the veteran community has been limited in its ability to advocate for veteran supportive legislation. This is due to a number of reasons; in a legislative environment dominated by paid lobbyists and interests, the veteran community has lacked the resources to compete; various VSO's have taken intermittent and limited stands on legislation, but lacked the collective, unified voice and a strategic vision for how best to accomplish our goals. This is despite the collective good will toward veterans in recent years and many politicians willing to go to bat for our veterans and service-members. While there is no shortage of legislators who are willing to wrap themselves in the flag and say they support veterans despite their unwillingness to vote for the legislation and monetary resources to create lasting support for our community, there are many who are looking for the right opportunity to support us. Multiple legislators openly look for ways to support veterans but the only voices they hear are those with financial resources like the for-profit universities, land developers and those looking to make money off of federal and state funding for veterans. As we all know, these groups are not always advocating in the best interests of our veterans. Further, when the veteran community does decide to get behind an issue, on the whole, we lack the knowledge and experience on how to go about advocating effectively for veteran-supportive legislation.

**The Solution:** MOAA has a proven track record of advocating for veteran and military supportive legislation on the national level. It is a natural fit for us to lead the charge in ending this cycle of fractured messaging and ineffectual advocacy. Utilizing our resources, our membership and our ties with the veteran and military community at large, we have the opportunity to organize and activate our community into a unified voice to be reckoned with. We



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have a 5 part strategy designed to meet this challenge. In chronological order the strategy includes:

1. **State Legislative Initial Discussion:** Conduct a meeting with relevant legislative and veteran parties to open communication channels and determine which bills are being discussed.
2. **Training:** Provide all interested veteran parties with basic and advanced levels of training on the state legislative process, veteran-supportive bills, district legislator information and strategy, and communications training.
3. **Storming the Capitol, Lunch on the Lawn:** Plan and execute a veteran advocacy day at the State Capitol, inviting veteran community and all State Legislators and staff.
4. **Individual Advocacy Meetings and Strategic Communication:** identify legislative allies and opponents. Set up meetings with each to further legislative agenda. Conduct letter writing, social media and phone call campaign by individual members to advocate for agenda.
5. **Legislative AAR and Planning for the Upcoming Session:** Conduct military-style After Action Review to discuss legislative session and plan for upcoming session. Deliver a legislative wrap-up to all interested parties detailing advocacy results and plan for upcoming session.

This is our initial proposal. We are inviting feedback and suggestions. Please contact Corey at [armyharris@gmail.com](mailto:armyharris@gmail.com) with your comments.

**MSVA/MANA House Liaison:** Ron Green reports that he has delivered water, towels, clothing/shoes and soaps this past month. There is a great need for more of the same. Ron has received an offer of 100 towels from a local hotel and will be picking them up later today. At this time the women's veteran shelter remains closed with alternate housing being provided; the reopening of the shelter is pending. Ron states that the area has over 6500 (winter) homeless veterans who need ongoing assistance

**Newsletter:** Jim Cullison has no report at this time. Please contact Jim for information if interested in working on *The Sentinel*; a replacement is needed as Jim steps up as Chapter President. Please consider helping with this vital chapter position

**Personal Affairs:** Dan Conway has no report at this time. Dan has notified the Board that he will be retiring as Personal Affairs Officer effective December 31, 2013. Should anyone wish to follow in Dan's footsteps, please contact Jim Cullison ([cullison30@q.com](mailto:cullison30@q.com))

**Programs:** John Ady has Retired Admiral James Symonds from the USS Ronald Reagan as our January 18<sup>th</sup> speaker; February will be a Retired Air Force Captain and motivational speaker. In the works - Luke AFB has promised that a senior officer will attend and speak on the new F35's. John is looking for your ideas and input for interesting guest speakers

**Public Affairs:** Mark has no report this month. He will meet with Rob and Jim after the holidays to discuss new options



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**Spotlight Speakers:** Frank Hoak reports his current lineup of speakers – January/John Ady, February/Ron Perkins, March/Lee Lange and April/Corey Harris. Anyone wishing to join your Chapter members already “in the Spotlight”, please contact Frank ([FHoak3@aol.com](mailto:FHoak3@aol.com))

**TOPS (Transition Center/Employment):** No report from Jim Draper at this time

**Webmaster:** Rob Welch reports that the website is continuously being updated. This month he will be updating the Scholarship Fund information and developing a new contact page for the incoming 2014 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**By-Laws:** No report from Rob Welch this month

**New Chapter Name Plates:** Terry Tassin & Frank Hoak have worked on getting samples done for the new name badges. Terry has worked with local Glendale company M & J; after some negotiating a very fair charge of \$5.00 plus tax per name badge has been offered to our members. A motion was made by John Ady and seconded by Bill Roscher to immediately order name plates for BOD members and their spouses; the plan is to have them for review/wearing at the December general meeting and for presentation at the January meeting. They will then be available for all members to order for \$5.00 each

**Toys For Tots:** Terry Tassin is coordinating the Chapter program again this year. Please remember to bring your gifts to the December 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon. Your participation is encouraged and greatly appreciated

**AUSA Armed Forces Career Officer Day:** Over 350 cadets, military, ROTC colleges and sponsors attended this year's event at McCormick Ranch. Chapter attendees included Rob Welch, Jim Cullison, Bill & JoAnn Roscher, Gene Rafanelli, Park Shaw, Rance Farrell, Jim Draper and Dan Germond

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Commemoration:** Jim Draper and Frank Hoak will attend this year's ceremony as Chapter representatives and present the Chapter wreath. This year's ceremony will include the dedication of two gun barrels from the WWII ships USS Arizona and USS Missouri

**2014 Golf Tournament:** This year's tournament will be May 1 at the Rio Verde Country Club (just north of Fountain Hills). Pat Dale has signed the contract and is busy working on the details – please put the date on your calendar – this is the major scholarship fund raiser for the Chapter

**Prescott Veterans Center:** A letter of support was sent to the Prescott Chapter to allow the naming of the new veteran center after a local doctor who had served and supported local veterans

**MOAA COIN:** A letter was sent to the AZ Council of Chapters declining participation



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**Diamondbacks Baseball Game:** The Superstition Chapter MOAA is working on getting tickets to the July 20<sup>th</sup> Cubs/Diamondbacks Game and is requesting all Chapters participation; this is currently pending as we await additional information

**Toasts at Christmas Luncheon:** The BOD will continue to offer formal toasts

**Uniforms Optional:** A motion was made by John Ady and seconded by Frank Hoak to have uniforms optional for both the January 2014 Installation of Officers luncheon and the May 2014 Scholarship Awards luncheon

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Monthly Free Lunch Drawing:** tabled until 2014

**2013 Communication Award Competition:** Rob Welch and Jim Cullison have agreed to resubmit our (3) current award winners - newsletter, website and recruiting brochure – for consideration

**Monthly Donation to the Arizona Veterans Home:** A motion was made by Leonore Hoak and seconded by Bill Roscher to continue sending the \$50.00 per month check to the Home. The donation is used for prizes and drinks for the monthly bingo game. The bingo is much anticipated, well attended and the Chapter receives a formal note of thanks each month for its support

**Guest MOAA Member Jerry Greenberg & Support Dog Cisco:** Jerry is a disabled American veteran, a medic and registered nurse who served in both the U S Army and U S Air Force, and as a life planner for disabled veterans. He asked to address the BOD to request our participation in a new incentive to get property tax discounts for catastrophically disabled veterans in the state of Arizona. All of our surrounding states have some law and provision to assist with this growing need. A motion was made by Frank Hoak and seconded by Jim Draper to work toward this goal; motion was passed by full BOD in attendance. Corey Harris will review options and help co-ordinate the initiative; he will advise progress at the January BOD meeting

**December Luncheon Greeters:** John and Sharon Ady

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Veteran On Board Cruise Credit:** Leonore Hoak reminds all members to request the veteran credit when booking your travels. Most (not all) cruise lines are offering the on board credit to the veterans account; a copy of your DD214 is required. Credits range from \$100.00 for a 7 day cruise to \$250.00 for a 15+ day cruise.

**Adjournment:** 1225

Respectfully submitted,  
Leonore Kenefic Hoak, Secretary