



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

13819 N. 51st Street

Scottsdale, AZ 85254

NOVEMBER 2015 CHARTERED 1956 59 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by Jim Cullison



A Very Good Month

October was a good month for the chapter and our members.

Many of us attended the Navy Ball on October 10, which was co-chaired by Carol Culbertson.

A hearty group enjoyed our annual barbecue picnic on the 17th.

Two members, John Ady and Bill Roscher, were inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame a week later. All 25 new inductees were introduced by Unified Arizona Veterans Chairman Rob Welch and Hall of Fame President Ron Perkins, and Dr. Paul Schnur, an inductee last year, was elected to the Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

And the month ends with the chapter receiving its 11th consecutive 5 Star of Excellence banner at MOAA's annual meeting.

No Slowdown this Month

The pace continues in November, as our chapter hosts the Arizona Council of Chapters semi-annual

meeting in Scottsdale on the 13th.

Representatives from all nine MOAA full chapters and four satellite chapters will attend for an update on current issues. Chapter member Ron Perkins is Council president, and Lee Lange is treasurer.

COL Barry Wright, MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, will be guest speaker, and he will be our guest at the monthly chapter luncheon the following day..

Awards & Election, too

Also taking place at the November luncheon will be the presentation of Meritorious Service Awards to five deserving chapter members and election of chapter officers for 2016. The nominees are listed on Page 2.

Previous MSA winners should wear their medals and ribbons to the meeting.

End '15 with a Party

We'll close out 2015 with our holiday party and Chinese auction on December 12, so mark your calendar. You can purchase tickets at the party for a chance to choose a gift from among those provided by chapter officers and committee heads.

Have You Seen This?



You're looking at the newly redesigned logo adopted by the MOAA Board of Directors. It replaces the previous logo, which you see at right.



Official chapter documents, such as stationery, flyers and publications, will be transitioned to the new look as current supplies are used up.

Don't Forget Dues

The deadline for 2016 chapter dues is getting closer, and we have a deal for you.

Renew no later than December 31 and you get a 10% discount. See the details on Page 4. Don't delay.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month.

Location: National Guard Regional Training Institute, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

- November 5
- December 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:

- November 14
- December 12

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November Speaker

MOAA Update from Col Wright

COL Barry Wright, USA (Ret), will give us the lowdown on MOAA's goals and issues affecting veterans as our guest speaker at the November 14 chapter luncheon.

Barry is MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, so we will get the most current information from national headquarters.



He joined MOAA in 2006 as deputy director of Council and Chapter Affairs and was appointed director in 2013 following the retirement of Lee Lange, who is now a member of our chapter.

COL Wright's active duty included command of infantry units at company and battalion levels. He also held personnel assignments from brigade to theater levels at Army and joint commands. His last assignment before retiring in 2003 was at the National Defense University in Washington.

Before joining MOAA, he was an instructor and course director at the Army Force Management School at Fort Belvoir, VA..

Veterans Day, November 11

A Tribute to All U.S. Veterans

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

"It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

"It is the soldier, not the organizer, who gave us the freedom to demonstrate.

"It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Father Dennis Edward O'Brien
Sergeant, USMC
(1923-2002)

Happy Birthday, Marines!

The 240th birthday of the United States Marine Corps will be celebrated November 10. The Marines were established by the Continental Congress on that date in 1775.

2 More Members Join AZ HOF



Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan (left) and Arizona Department of Veterans Services Director Wanda Wright lead the applause for Bill Roscher's induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame October 23. John Ady also was inducted but unable to attend. His son William accepted the award for him. Bill and John joined 23 other outstanding veterans inducted in the Class of 2015.

Chapter Officer Slate for 2016

The Chapter Board has approved the following nominees for 2016 Chapter officers.

President: Dave Fleming, Air Force

1st Vice President: Lee Lange, Marine Corps

2nd Vice President: Ron Bright, Army

Secretary: Paul Schnur, Army

Treasurer: Charlie Bitner, Air Force

Immediate Past President: Jim Cullison, Air Force

Directors: Jim Draper, Navy; Bruce Kosaveach, Navy; Janet Stultz, Army; Donna Bright, Navy; Beth Cullison, Spouse.

The election will take place at the November 14 members' meeting. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor.

TAPS

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

Lt Col Frank Birtciel, USAF (Ret)
 July 7, 1923-October 21, 2015
 World War II Veteran

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to Frank's wife Velma and family.

A Fine Day for a Picnic



The rain took a break, the food was plentiful, and the entertainment was grand as 50 members and guests gathered for the annual chapter barbecue at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on October 17.

Western balladeer Ted Newman sang familiar songs of the Old West and cowboy life, including requests from members, sprinkling them with humorous tales and several of his own song creations.



Friendly socializing was the order of the day before lunch. Above, guests Becky and Jim Schnur (Paul's cousin and a U.S. Public Health Service retiree), visit with Janet Lange.

At right, members Jeanne Blaes, Gene Rafanelli and Lee Lange reminisce

Below, Navy retiree/guest Chuck Farley, left, and his wife Peggy share a story with Ron Perkins, Jim Draper and Gary Fredricks.



A Sad Note: Originally, another singer, Gary Johnson, was scheduled to perform, but he passed away barely two weeks before the picnic. Special thanks to Program Director John Ady, who quickly rounded up Ted Newman to replace Gary Johnson, and to Ted, who agreed on short notice to fill in for his friend Gary.



Arizona Chapter

Annual Membership Renewal



Membership Renewal for 2016 due by December 31, 2015

Dues for Regular Members are \$20.00

Dues for Auxiliary Members are \$10.00

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL !!

**Pay your dues before January 1, 2016
and receive 10% off**

➤ Regular Members pay \$18.00

➤ Auxiliary Members pay \$9.00

SAVE TIME. SAVE MONEY. RENEW YOUR DUES TODAY

Make out your check to:
AZ Chapter MOAA

Mail to:
Charlie Bitner, Treasurer
134 E. Northview Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85020



Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange
Personal Affairs Officer

Change is Coming

Earlier this year, a decision was made that will impact all 60,000 surviving spouses in MOAA's membership. The Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) approved a new name for their committee – the Surviving Spouses Advisory Committee (SSAC).

This decision was the result of several years of deliberations over the general feeling that calling surviving spouses auxiliary members failed to adequately describe the significant contributions these members make to MOAA. They are a very important part of MOAA's membership, and Surviving Spouses better describes who they are.

The renaming of the committee, which has for years advised MOAA's Chairman on all matters pertaining to auxiliary members in MOAA, will lead to a new membership category. Auxiliary memberships will be replaced by Surviving Spouse memberships.

MOAA is now working on implementation of this new membership category, so stay tuned for more information.

New Survivors Planning Guide Is Ready

In a separate development, we told you several months ago that MOAA was in the process of publishing a new *Survivors Planning Guide* to help surviving spouses with the loss of their military member spouse.

Originally set for an April publication, it was delayed and published in September. The new guide contains extensive inputs from surviving spouses on MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee. The guide is intended to be used in conjunction with another MOAA publication, MOAA's *Personal Affairs Action Guide*, to provide a sequence of actions that require attention beginning with burial arrangements and then the many other issues that must be addressed.

How To Get Your Copy

I will ask MOAA for copies of the new guide, but members can get this done faster by calling MOAA at (800) 234-6622 or sending an email to msc@moaa.org requesting a copy of the guide. The guide is also available online by logging into MOAA's homepage and clicking on Publications, then MOAA Publications. Scroll down to the Survivors Planning Guide and then download it to your computer.

Welcome Our New Member

Pete Berger, Major USAF (Ret)
Phoenix

Please meet and greet our new member.

Need to Dispose of a Damaged Flag?

If you have an American flag that has become frayed, faded or damaged, bring it to a chapter meeting for proper retirement.

John Ady has identified two reputable sources that will take flags — one for cotton flags and the other for those made of synthetic material (nylon, etc.) that might have components unfriendly to the environment — and dispose of them properly.



... oh wait, never
mind, we already
'volunteered' you for

the

AZMOAA

Duty Roster

DATE	NAME	PHONE
Sep 19	Jim Cullison	602-482-3838
Oct 17	Dave Fleming	480-459-6366
Nov 14	Jim Draper	480-483-7769
Dec 12	Frank Hoak	480-664-0047

The above named personnel are responsible for bringing all the flags, stands, tips AND table decorations to the monthly meeting at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Assigned personnel are also responsible for returning the materials at the end of the meeting.

The AZMOAA storage unit is at 13851 73rd St, Scottsdale
(north of Thunderbird Rd and east of Scottsdale Rd) ...

Unit #232



Legislative Update

by Lee Lange
Legislation Chairman

God News - Bad News

This month there is some good news but mostly bad news.

The *good news* is that the House and Senate finished work on the FY2016 Defense Authorization Bill early in October and sent it to the President for signature.

The *bad news* is that the bill contained some things MOAA doesn't like and that the President then vetoed it on October 22.

It's especially disappointing that the main sticking point involved a budget technicality, not issues directly related to defense policy. Under the 2011 Budget Control Act, (better known as Sequestration) there are hard caps on both defense and non-defense spending. Most people agree the defense cap is too low and jeopardizes readiness. But the President and many in Congress believe the cap on non-defense spending is too low as well. The debate over whether and how to raise the caps has Congress tied up in knots.

Committee Leaders' Gambit Fails

But a nation at war needs a defense bill, and it needs more money than the cap allows. So House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders used a technicality to get around the cap. They authorized an extra \$38 billion in a wartime contingency account that's not subject to spending limits. The President vetoed the bill for two main reasons. First, he says (rightly) that using this one-year mechanism fails to let the Pentagon plan for the future. Second, he agrees with many in Congress that it's wrong to let Defense spend above the legal limits while keeping the cap on non-defense accounts.

MOAA Disagrees with Tactic

MOAA believes the defense bill is the wrong vehicle to wage this battle. It only authorizes things; it doesn't provide funding. The funding bills are tied up in a separate political fight that Congress is going to have to work out over the next month or two. At this point, legislators are scheduling votes to override the veto. But that takes a two-thirds majority vote in both the

House and Senate, and most think the votes aren't there. So it looks like the veto will stand until Congress finds a way to untie the budget cap knot.

MOAA Concerns

Some concerned MOAA members have asked, why not use the veto to try to get fixes to some of the things MOAA doesn't like? The reality is that the veto will not reopen any of the things MOAA is concerned about in the bill.

What are those things? Some of the most contentious issues are:

- A 1.3% pay raise for the troops vice the 2.3% needed to keep up with private sector wage growth – the third year that raises have been capped.
- Major changes to military retirement effective in 2018 that will cut retirement by 20%. Current members and retirees are expected to be grandfathered under the old system.
- Major reductions in commissary funding were averted for this year, but the danger is far from over.
- Major changes to TRICARE and new fees were averted, but pharmacy and mail order copays will be going up in 2016.

Those fights have been fought in the Armed Services committees, with compromises reached in the interest of getting a bill passed. There is no chance of any of those things being renegotiated in a Capitol Hill environment that is focused almost exclusively on budget issues. The worst-case veto scenario is that a frustrated Congress could just eliminate the supplemental account and pass a defense bill with \$38 billion less funding.

Alternatively, the defense bill would go back into the roiling pot with the other major budget issues – raising the debt ceiling, figuring out the entire government budget, and funding it through a continuing resolution or some other measure.

The Best Thing We Can Do

The best thing we can do is get in the fight and go to MOAA's homepage at www.moaa.org and click on the Take Action Now button. Or contact your legislators by phone or by letter to let them know you want action to get the Defense Bill approved and other pressing budget issues resolved now.

Donations to Chapter Funds

Scholarship Fund

Lee Lange \$200

Anonymous \$20

November Luncheon

WHEN: November 14, 2015
11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social Hour
11:45, Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale

COST: \$22 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Salad, roast turkey breast with sage dressing and whipped potatoes, pumpkin pie.

PROGRAM: COL Barry Wright, USA (Ret), MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, is guest speaker. Also election of chapter officers for 2016 and presentation of Meritorious Service Awards.

Reservations are required and must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

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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: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com.**

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 **November 14, 2015**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than **November 10, 2015**

Send to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com.**



Again this year we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center's *Toys For Tots* program. Members are encouraged to bring at least one toy for donation to this worthy program.

The 9-12 year-old age group is the most difficult to accommodate. Stuffed animals are not desired. Bring your donations to the November or December luncheon.



The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	AUXILIARY LIAISON COL Nancy Burt USA 480-634-6105
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Col Dave Fleming, USAF 480-459-6366	ADVERTISING Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	CHAPLAIN Vacant
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Col Lee Lange, USMC 713-232-3609	ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	PERSONAL AFFAIRS Col Lee Lange USMC 713-232-3609
SECRETARY Leonore Hoak, spouse 480-664-0047	PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER LCDR Mark Day, USN 480-837-1900	PROGRAMS COL John Ady USA 480-596-0780
TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	ARRANGEMENTS
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT COL ROB Welch, USA 480-207-6446	JROTC AWARDS LCDR Terry Tassin USN 623-931-1546	SCHOLARSHIPS COL Rob Welch USA 480-207-6446
DIRECTORS: COL Nancy Burt USA, CDR Jim Draper USN, COL John Ady, USA, CAPT Frank Hoak III, USN, Beth Cullison, spouse	LEGISLATION Col Lee Lange, USMC 713-232-3609	TRANSITION LIAISON CDR Jim Draper USN 480-483-7769
	MEMBERSHIP Col Dave Fleming USAF 480-439-6366	WEBMASTER COL Rob Welch USA 480-207-6446
		SHARE A RIDE CAPT Frank Hoak III, USN 480-664-0047

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