

President's Perspective

by Lee Lange



MOAA Western Region Symposium

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity, along with Vice President Ron Bright and Membership Chair Dave Price, to attend MOAA's Western Region Chapter Symposium in Las Vegas.

The three of us and our wives attended the Symposium September 22-24 at the Flamingo Hotel.

About 200 council and chapter leaders and spouses attended.

Each of us was on a separate training track, including focusing on different aspects of chapter management.

This was an excellent opportunity to get the latest information from MOAA.

MOAA President. Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), spoke to the group during the President's Dinner and reiterated MOAAs' strong support for chapters.

Scholarship Program Fundraising Underway

Since kicking off our fundraising campaign last month, our chapter members have generously donated \$1,350 towards our goal of \$10,000 by September of 2017.

Our first fundraiser of the year was held at Habit Burger Grill September 20 and was attended by over 80 chapter members and friends. At press time, the total take is still being determined, but thank you for your strong support.

Our final fundraiser for 2016 will be a wine tasting and silent auction at the home of chapter member Jon Shawl on Saturday, November 12. Save the date now on your calendar for what promises to be a terrific event.

Your invitation to this event is awaiting you on Page 4.

Don't Miss Our October Picnic

Be sure to join us for our annual October picnic at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on October 15. This is a great time for members to get together and socialize, but it's also an excellent opportunity to recruit new members for our chapter.

We need your help in bringing your friends to the picnic. If you bring a guest eligible for chapter membership, we'll buy their lunch. Then we'll introduce them to our members and make them feel right at home.

In the past, many of our guests have ended up chapter members. So please plan on helping us build up our membership. Be sure to let us know in advance who your guests are so we can plan for enough food and beverages.

Entertainment this year is a special treat in Marshall Trimble, the Arizona State Historian. In addition to telling great stories about Arizona, he sings songs about the West and Arizona.

Don't miss it.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month unless noted otherwise

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

Upcoming meetings:

- October 6
- November 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:

- October 15
- November 19

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Happy Anniversary

60 Years and Counting

Sixty years ago this month, The Retired Officers Association of America (TROAA) issued a charter to the Arizona Chapter, the organization's first chapter in our state. TROAA's name was changed to MOAA in 2002.

Major Charles Powell, USA (Ret), a veteran of World Wars I and II, was the first chapter president, followed by 54 other members from six uniformed services as presidents.

Since the first meeting in 1956, the chapter and its members have distinguished themselves as leaders in the veterans community and MOAA.

Two members have served on the MOAA national board of directors. Twenty-eight have been inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, and two more will be inducted this month. Eight have been awarded National Leadership Awards by MOAA, and two have received Certificates of Merit.

The chapter has earned 13 consecutive 5 Star Level of Excellence Awards from MOAA, and our website, newsletter and recruiting brochure have won numerous MOAA Communication Awards.

Sixty years later, the Arizona Chapter is still going strong and looking forward to continuing to build on our impressive legacy.

September Meeting Wrap-up

Unfortunately, our September speaker became ill and could not attend. In her place, Ron Perkins, Arizona Council of Chapters President, gave a comprehensive update on legislative action affecting veterans. President Lee Lange



explained our goal of raising \$10,000 for our Scholarship Fund over the next year and presented MOAA Communication Award certificates to Rob Welch, webmaster, and Jim Cullison, editor, during the luncheon.



The chapter website, azmoaa.org, won the top 5 Star Award from MOAA, and *The Sentinel* newsletter won a 4 Star honor.

Lots of Chapter Action in the Months Ahead

October 17 and November 12 are big days for the Arizona Chapter.

Our annual picnic barbecue is set for October 17 at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale.

Clear your calendar and plan your day at the park for mouth-watering food from Famous Dave's Pit BBQ and an entertaining program



provided by Marshall Trimble, Arizona's Official State Historian and a Marine veteran. He'll enlighten us with tales and songs of old Arizona.

Our fundraising committee is planning a different kind of event on Saturday, November 12, to raise scholarship funds — a double-blind wine tasting seminar and silent auction. Double-blind means the wine bottle labels are covered so neither the seminar leader nor tasters know which wine is being tasted. The leader then describes the wine attributes, and the tasters have sheets to record which wines they like, or don't like.

Seminar leaders are Gary and Carol Bradley of Casa Grande, who previously owned a winery in Washington State and have visited wine country at home and abroad to study wine.

Find out more about these two exciting events on the next two pages of this newsletter. Then plan to attend.

Donations to Chapter Funds

General Fund

Roger Schartzter \$50
Ron Perkins \$50

Scholarship Fund

Roger Schartzter \$50
Lee Lange \$500
John Ady \$500
Tom and Anita Blain \$100
Rob Welch \$250
Marcia Leggett \$35
Chapter in Memory of Park Shaw \$50



MOAA ANNUAL PICNIC

Featuring MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Arizona's Official Historian

Saturday

October 15



\$22.00
per
person

McCormick Railroad Park – Stillman Ramada

Scottsdale Road at Indian Bend Road

Happy Hour -11:00 Lunch – 11:45

Famous Dave's Pit BBQ

Reservations by Oct 11
Potential Members
Welcome



Tickets on sale now!
For Double Blind Wine Tasting Gala
November 12, 2016
4:00 – 7:00 PM

HOSTED BY: Jon & Linda Shawl
6837 N. Lost Dutchman Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

**Great Wines, Great Food,
Dessert Buffet, Silent Auction**

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$50.00/person) for the
November 12, 2016 Wine Tasting Gala.

Names of attendees: _____

(Please print clearly)

Make check payable to **AZ-MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Send check to: **Beth Cullison, 13819 N. 51st Street,
Scottsdale, AZ 85254, 602-482-3838**

Limited seating, purchase your tickets before 10/25/16



Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange
Personal Affairs Officer

Hearing Aids for Military Retirees

TRICARE does not cover hearing aids but two DoD sponsored programs may provide help. The Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP) and the Retiree Hearing Aid Purchase Program (RHAPP) are designed to help military retirees purchase hearing aids through an audiology clinic at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) at a special government negotiated price.

The hearing aids available through this program are the same state-of-the-art technologies available to active duty service members.

The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program.

Potential Cost Savings

Retirees can buy hearing aids at a significant savings by using the program. For example, a set of hearing aids (one of the best available) that retails for about \$5,000 costs a retiree as little as \$755 or about 15% of the retail costs.

Services for the hearing evaluation, hearing aid fitting and follow up hearing aid checks are part of the retiree benefits and are available at no cost to you.

Not every military medical facility is able to provide the RACHAP/RHAPP program. It is not available in Arizona.

If you are traveling to a participating site from out of town, you need to compare your travel costs and purchase savings to the costs of purchasing hearing aids privately in your local community. Travel and overnight expenses are not covered.

Generally, at least two visits are required for you to get hearing aids; one for your hearing evaluation and one for your hearing aid fitting.

Participating facilities (CONUS\OCONUS) are listed online at <http://militaryaudiology.org/rachap-rhapp-locations/>. Participation by these sites may be subject to change on short or no notice.

VA Option

Military retirees may also be eligible for hearing aids from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In most cases there is no cost to the patient. More information about VA services is available by contacting the VA directly at (877) 222-8387 or (800) 827-1000.

Fun, Food and Fundraising for Scholarships



Linda and Jon Shaw placed an order at the Habit Burger Grill during the chapter's September 20 fundraising event. That's Paul Schnur behind them waiting his turn.

Below, Jeannie Dahl, left, hams it up with her hamburger for the camera. She joined Susan Farrell and guests Angie and Ray Boucher for the gathering.

Nearly 80 members and friends attended the daylong event. Habit Burger management is donating 20% of each attendee's tab to our Scholarship Fund. Results hadn't been reported by the time *The Sentinel* was published.





National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange
Legislation Chairman

Continuing Resolution Ahead

It appears increasingly unlikely Congress will pass a budget before September 30. Congressional leaders are in talks with the White House on a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government running through early December. This is the eighth straight year the Congress has failed to pass a budget before the start of the next Fiscal Year.

The Secretary of Defense, Service Chiefs and the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, all testified recently that the failure to pass appropriations bills on time has very negative consequences for everyone.

For DoD, the absence of an approved budget can mean:

- Planned force level changes (increases or decreases) must be put on hold;
- If the CR runs past January 1, the military pay raise could be put on hold;
- DoD is prevented from taking funding away from programs planned for termination or downsizing, and any new starts are placed on hold. All of this wastes millions of dollars;
- Retired pay and SBP annuities (including COLAs, if any) would be paid on time, since those are mandatory spending programs that aren't subject to annual appropriations.

VA Impacts

Among VA programs, veterans and survivors

will continue to receive disability compensation and pension payments, but a CR would affect other functions that may leave veterans seeing reduced services.

The president requested a \$1.7 billion funding hike for VA medical care that will not be provided under a CR. In addition, planned expansions of Hepatitis C treatments, more funding for caregivers, and expanded funding for long-term care programs won't be implemented.

The VA will also be unable to move forward with opening newly leased or constructed medical clinics because the \$238 million in new funding for equipment, supplies and staffing won't be available. Further, the VA won't be able to hire the extra 300 employees planned to "right size" its workforce in claims processing, so claims backlogs will rise.

MOAA believes government would be far more efficient and the people would be much better off if Congress could pass its appropriations on time so all agencies could move forward with long-term planning and improvements.

Defense Authorization Bill Conference Continues

While funding battles continue, the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill Conference continues work. House and Senate conferees are nearing the end of negotiations to iron out differences in their respective bills. MOAA favors the House version, but differences remain with the Senate on pay raises, TRICARE fees and housing allowances

It's That Time Again!

**Your Arizona Chapter Membership Renewal for 2017
Is Due by December 31, 2016**

Early Bird Renewal Is in Effect Again

If you renew by December 31, you save 10%

Regular Members pay \$18, Surviving Spouses pay \$9

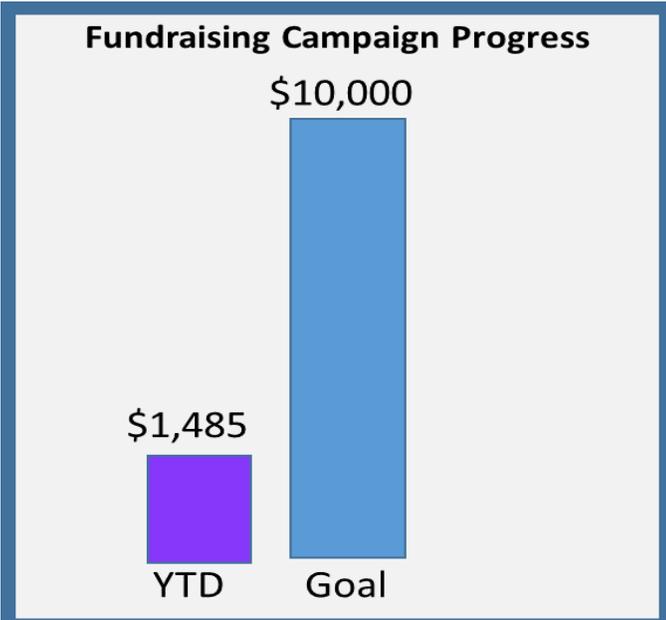
After December 31, Regular Member Annual Dues are \$20

Surviving Spouse Annual Dues are \$10

Online Renewal is coming.

But for now make your renewal check out to AZ Chapter MOAA and send it to:

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



**Third Annual
Support Education and Employment
for Vets (S.E.E.4Vets)
Golf Tournament**

*Proceeds from this event will benefit S.E.E4Vets,
an Arizona non-profit public charity
organization.*

Historic Wigwam Resort
Patriot Course
Friday, November 18, 2016

Shot Gun 9:00 AM
Scramble
Long Drive
Closest to the Pin
Hole in One
Lunch & Program
Auction & Raffle Prizes

Golf and Lunch/Program -- \$100/player
or \$400/foursome
Lunch/Program Only -- \$35
(Tax deductible \$30/golfer)

Player & Sponsorship Registration Link
www.see4vets.org/special-events

October Luncheon

WHEN: October 15, 2016
11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social
Hour
11:45, Lunch

WHERE: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park,
Scottsdale

COST: \$22 Per Person

DRESS: Picnic Casual

MENU: Traditional barbecue fare from Famous Dave's Pit
BBQ.

PROGRAM: Arizona State Historian Marshall Trimble will
entertain with songs and stories of the Grand Canyon State.

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/RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve ___ meals for (name): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$22.00/person) for the October 2016 luncheon

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

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

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after October 11.
Cancellations after October 11 will be charged and not refunded.**

November Luncheon Preview

The Story of the Unknown Soldier

Many of us have seen the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery, but have you ever wondered how the first Unknown Soldier was selected after World War I? Our November 19 luncheon speaker, Matt Scott, is the grandson of the man who was involved in the selection and burial of that soldier in November 1921. Matt will tell us that story.

Keep Us Informed

Let us know when you change phone number, address or e-mail so we can keep you in the loop with this newsletter and other chapter communications. Contact any chapter officer with your changes.



Happy Halloween



The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2016 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org

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



azmoaa.org



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