

President's Perspective

by Lee Lange



Happy New Year

I hope everyone enjoyed a great holiday season with family and friends. Yet another year has seemingly flown by. As a chapter, I believe we accomplished a great deal in 2016. Let's review some of the highlights.

Generous Giving

Chapter members were extremely generous in supporting our Scholarship Fundraising Challenge. The campaign, which kicked off in September, has raised over \$9,000 in the first four months. We are well on our way towards achieving our goal of \$10,000. Terry Tassin also reports chapter members donated a record number of Toys for Tots in 2016 – and sends a “well done” to our members.

Scholarship Change

We implemented a new Scholarship Program in 2016 that provides three \$2,000 scholarships to ROTC cadets and midshipmen at ASU to help them complete their

senior years. Our first three recipients attended our April luncheon and all were outstanding examples of future officers. Also held in April was another very successful golf tournament organized by Pat Dale to raise money for our scholarship program. Thank you, Pat, for all you do.

Member/Chapter Achievements

Chapter members Rob Welch and Jeanne Blaes were inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, and six members received Meritorious Service Awards. The chapter received three honors from MOAA National, including the 13th consecutive 5 Star Level of Excellence Award, a 4 Star Award for *The Sentinel* and a 5 Star Award for our website in the annual Communication Awards program.

Volunteering

Numerous chapter members volunteered at the annual StandDown

for Homeless Veterans in Phoenix, and Ron Green continued his mission to provide water and other necessities for homeless veterans at the MANA House.

Members represented MOAA and the Arizona Chapter at numerous events including the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery, the MOWW Massing of the Colors and the Pearl Harbor Remembrance at the State Capitol.

Excellent Programs

Our monthly luncheons continued to feature excellent speakers. The Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, Wanda Wright, highlighted our January program. And we had a great presentation from our own Paul Schnur on the Mayo Clinic contributions to the military and a fascinating talk by member Frank Hoak on visiting North Korea.

Continuing to Serve

A new slate of officers was installed at our December 17 meeting. Most are veterans of the Board, but there are

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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:

- January 5
- February 2

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:

- January 21
- February 18

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Remembering Pearl Harbor 75 Years after the Attack

(Editor's Note: Chapter Member Frank Hoak and his wife Leonore attended the 75th anniversary commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. He recounts events of ceremonies that took place there.)

*By Frank Hoak III
CAPT USN (Ret)*

The logo simply read "Remembering Pearl Harbor 1941" with a large "75" in the center, but officially the event was named "National Pearl

Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration," organized by the U.S. Navy and the National Park Service.

The first week of December 2016 featured over 50 events on the island of Oahu to honor those who gave it all on December 7, 1941.



I was there with the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, a group that carries on the work of the original Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. I was a child survivor at age 4. My father was a Chief Radioman aboard the USS Pennsylvania BB-38.

There were about 50 Pearl Harbor survivors in attendance, ranging in age from 93 to 106. One was a 95-year-old resident from Chandler, Jack Holder, who was a Navy patrol plane crewman on Ford Island that fateful morning.

The major event was at the pier adjacent to the USS Arizona Memorial, at which more than 4,000 people stood in silence at 0755 on December 7, 2016, in honor of the 2,388 men killed that morning, of which 1,177 were lost on the Arizona. The USS Halsey DDG-97 passed in review, USAF F-22s flew the missing man formation, and USS John C. Stennis CVN-74 stood by at the adjacent pier while the Navy Pacific Fleet Band played Stars and Stripes Forever. It was an awesome moment.

During the week, ceremonies were also held at USS Utah, where 58 men were lost; USS Oklahoma, 429 men lost, and USS Nevada, the only battleship to get underway on December 7, 57 men lost.

Also on December 7, events were held at Hickam AFB, Kaneohe MCB and several Army locations on Oahu.

This was most likely the last Pearl Harbor event that had survivors in attendance, and it was an honor for me to attend.



Frank, left, and Jack Holder of Chandler, a Pearl Harbor Survivor.

Honoring the Fallen in Phoenix

Janet Stultz and Lee Lange represented the Arizona Chapter in the wreath laying ceremony on December 7 at the USS Arizona Memorial at the State Capitol in Phoenix. They joined other veterans groups in honoring the sailors and soldiers who died in the Pearl Harbor attack that day in 1941.



President's Perspective...continued

some new faces including Dave Price and Jon Shawl. Give them a shout out when you see them for their willingness to serve the chapter. Leaving the Board but continuing as our Arrangements lead is Donna Bright. Please thank her for her service on the Board.

I look forward to seeing you at our January 21 meeting to kick off 2017. While we are doing well as a chapter, there are challenges ahead including the recruiting of new members and retaining the ones we have. Together we can meet these challenges.

Thank you for your membership and support.

2017 Chapter Meeting Schedule

Arizona Chapter luncheon meetings take place on the third Saturday of the month. Following are the 2017 dates for your planning purposes.

January 21	June-August, no meetings
February 18	September 16
March 18	October 21
April 15	November 18
May 20	December 16

January Luncheon

The Unknown Soldier's Story

Our guest speaker, Matt Scott, had to cancel his appearance in November because of illness, but he will be with us at the January 21 luncheon with a presentation on the "**Selection and Burial of the First Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery.**" His research includes the use of a report developed by his grandfather, who was a clerk in the Cemetery Division of the Department of War and who was directed to document the details of the ceremony in France and the burial in Arlington in 1921.

Saturday, January 21

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

\$22 per Person

Make your reservations with

Charlie Bitner
134 E. Northview Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
602-943-0028

charles.bitner@gmail.com

Reservations are required and must be made no later than Tuesday, January 17

Make checks payable to **AZ Chapter MOAA**
 Or pay by credit card at the luncheon.
 See Box at Right.

Did You Forget?

To Renew your Chapter Membership for 2017

Your membership is important to us. Please take the time to renew your membership and be a part of the Arizona Chapter of MOAA.

Membership Dues for 2017 are due by March 31

Dues for Regular Members are \$20.00
 Dues for Auxiliary Members are \$10.00

Make your check made out to
AZ Chapter MOAA

Send to: Charles Bitner
 134 E. Northview Dr.
 Phoenix, AZ 85020

Or renew online — See box at right.

New Payment Option for Dues, Luncheons

Our chapter will begin offering two new electronic services beginning January 1, 2017: online chapter dues payment and credit card payment for the monthly lunches.

Chapter dues payment

Beginning in January you will have the option to pay dues online using your credit card by logging on to AZMOAA.org and clicking on the MEMBERSHIP tab. Your chapter dues will be collected by MOAA National and sent on to us. There is no charge to you or to us to use MOAA National's service. You will receive an e-mail back from National acknowledging your payment, which is your receipt. **Please note:** Using this feature on the AZMOAA.org website does NOT pay national dues. National dues are paid at the MOAA website.

Payment for lunches

Also beginning in January, you will have the option to pay for your lunch by credit card. A small device at the check-in table will read your credit card and charge you for your lunch. The only catch is that the chapter will not absorb the 2.75% service fee associated with the transaction. So, the cost of your meal when paying by credit card will be \$22.61 rather than the standard \$22.

Keep in mind that if you choose to pay for lunch by credit card, you still must make reservations with the Treasurer ahead of time, no later than the Tuesday before the luncheon.

Online dues payment and credit card usage for lunches are completely optional. You may continue to pay your dues and lunches by cash or check if you prefer.

TAPS

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

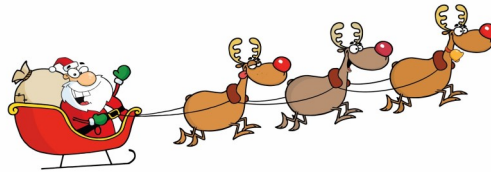
Dick Weiss, 1stLt USMC (Fmr)
 January 6, 1924-December 10, 2016
 World War II Veteran

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family.

Holiday Fun at Chapter December Luncheon



The Arizona Chapter's annual holiday luncheon and Chinese Auction featured good food and an array of festively wrapped gifts for the taking — or stealing — by the members whose lucky numbers were drawn. Chapter officers for 2017 also were sworn-in by Ron Perkins at the luncheon.



Charles Black, above, weighs his options before selecting a gift.

Below, Sheri Clark makes a steal.



Elizabeth Rast, above, found a gift to her liking, while JoAnn Roscher, left, examines a wine glass in the set of glasses she found in her gift. Below, Dan Conway had to dig deep to find all the surprises in that big gift bag.



Chapter officers for 2017, below from left, are Lee Lange, president; Bruce Kosaveach, director; Ron Bright, 1st VP; Dave Price, 2nd VP; Janet Stultz and Beth Cullison, directors; Charlie Bitner, treasurer; Jim Draper, director; Jim Cullison, immediate past president, and Paul Schnur, secretary.





Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange
Personal Affairs Officer

Cybersecurity Tips to Keep Your Information Safe – Part 1

The following is adapted from an MOAA staff article and is presented in two parts. Follow these tips to help you protect your online information and avoid fraud.

Protect your passwords

- **Never** share your passwords.
- **Use two-step** verification when possible, which makes use of something you know (your password) and something you have (for example, a code that is sent to your phone). The account can't be accessed without both.
- **Use symbols** as well as upper and lowercase letters and numbers. The more types of characters you include, the more difficult your password will be to crack.
- **Don't use** your birth date, family names, or a dictionary word as passwords. Some password-cracking programs simply run through all of the words in a particular dictionary.
- **Use longer** rather than shorter passwords. Eight characters should be the minimum, but 12 characters are even better. Some "brute force" password-cracking programs on heavy-duty hardware can run through every possible eight-character combination in a matter of hours.
- **Use a "passphrase"** instead of a password. A short sentence, such as "Go forth 4 ever & more," can be easy to remember, not too difficult to type, and very difficult to crack.
- **Don't use** the same password or passphrase with multiple sites. Periodically, high-profile sites are hacked in which thousands of users' passwords are breached. If a hacker discovers a password of yours this way or by using a password-cracking program and you use the same password for other sites, this makes it easy to break into your other sites.
- **Use a** password management service or otherwise hide your passwords. A password

management service lets you use one password for it and fills in your passwords automatically. Two recommended password managers are **Lastpass** and **KeePass**.

Secure your home network

- **Configure** your home Wi-Fi router to use a strong password, and ensure it's configured to use the latest encryption.
- **Securing** your home Wi-Fi simply requires using the software that comes with your router to type in the passkey whenever you add a new device to the network for the first time.
- **Choose** an intimidating sounding network name (SSID) such as c:\virus.exe to scare off nosy neighbors or passers-by. Alternately, you can disable SSID broadcasting, which hides your network's name.

Next month's Sentinel will present Part 2 of this important article.



Certificate of Merit for Ron, Meritorious Service Award for Janet

Two members received awards at the December luncheon for their service to the community and the chapter.

Ron Green, upper left, received a Certificate of Merit for his continued efforts to provide bottled water and other essentials to homeless veterans.

The final Chapter Meritorious Service Award for 2016 was presented to Janet Stultz by Chapter President Lee Lange at the December luncheon.

Janet was unable to join the other MSA recipients when the awards were presented in November.



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange
Legislation Chairman

Defense Bill Signed Into Law

In an unexpected and welcome turn of events, House and Senate leaders in the Conference Committee resolved hundreds of differences between their respective versions of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill.

The House and Senate then moved quickly on their return from the Thanksgiving recess and on December 8, the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) cleared the Senate. The \$619 billion defense policy bill passed the Senate with a veto-proof majority of 92-7. The House passed the bill the previous week by an equally large majority of 375-34.

Defense leaders at the Pentagon initially said they would recommend the President veto the defense bill over included troop and pay increases. The President also expressed disappointment in a number of provisions but signed it anyway on December 23.

Good News in Defense Bill

Here's a summary of selected outcomes, many of which were recommended by MOAA and The Military Coalition.

Currently Serving Issues

- Approves a 2.1 percent 2017 military pay raise rather than the 1.6 percent proposed by DoD. This is the largest pay raise since 2010.
- Increases force levels by 16,000 for the Army, 4,000 for the Air Force and 3,000 for the Marine Corps.
- Rejects a Senate-proposed plan that would have cut housing allowances by tens of thousands of dollars a year for dual-servicemember couples and other military members who share housing.

Survivor Benefits

- Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) for SBP-DIC widows extended through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate. This gives MOAA an opportunity to push Congress next year to increase and further extend the allowance, or eliminate the offset in its entirety.

TRICARE Benefits and Fees

- There will be no changes to TRICARE for LIFE (TFL). The bill rejects the Pentagon proposal to impose an annual TFL enrollment fee of up to 2 percent of military retired pay.
- Rejects a DoD proposal to roughly double TRICARE pharmacy copays over 10 years.
- Grandfathers currently serving and currently retired members and families against most increases.
- Current retirees and family members enrolled in TRICARE Standard (to be renamed TRICARE Select) will pay a new enrollment fee of \$150/\$300 (single/family) per year, starting in 2020.
- Establishes a new requirement for retired members and families (except TFL) to execute a formal annual enrollment in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, starting in 2017 (IMPORTANT: this means members will have to physically sign a piece of paper to enroll).
- Authorizes retired members and families to participate in federal civilian dental and vision plans. The current retiree dental program will be phased out.

Other Issues

- Includes a provision aimed at ensuring fair treatment for California Guardsmen who have been targeted for recoupment of incentive bonuses paid to them 10 years ago.
- Rejected the Senate's proposal mandating female Selective Service registration, and instead included a requirement to review the continuing need for Selective Service System registration and the potential for a national service program.

New Continuing Resolution Passed

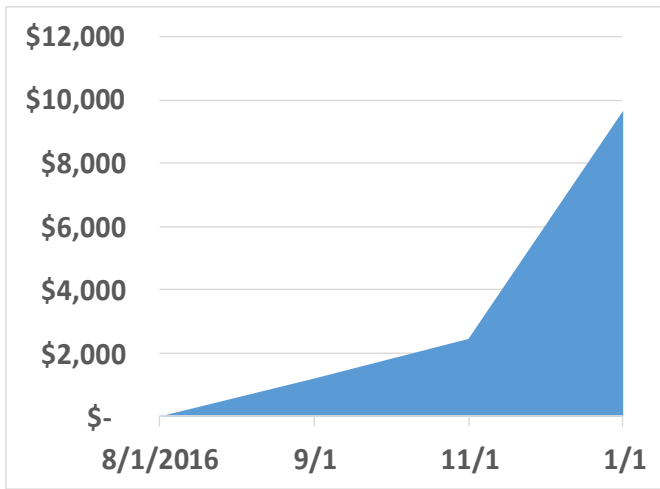
Meanwhile, Congress took action December 9 and passed a new Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through April 28, 2017. The President signed it, leaving a final solution to the next Administration.

Keep Us Informed

Let us know when you change your 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.

Scholarship Fundraising Campaign

Goal: \$10,000 YTD: \$9,656



Scholarship Chair Change of Command

By Rob Welch,

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Scholarship Chair, Captain Jon Shawl, USN (Ret).

I pray that you will provide Jon the excellent support that you have given the Scholarship Fund and myself these past nine years that I have been involved, seven as the Chair. I especially want to thank those individuals who served on the committee with me for several years, without whom we would not have the solid program that we have today: Bill Roscher, Lee Lange, Janet Stultz, Ron Perkins, Terry Tassin, and the late Rance Farrell.

In addition, a special thanks to seven members and their spouses who have raised, or donated, over a thousand dollars each to the Scholarship Fund: John Ady, Pat Dale, Jim Cullison, Dan Germond, Lee Lange, Gene Rafanelli, and the late Park Shaw.

You can see our other dedicated donors to the Scholarship Fund by visiting our chapter's website at <http://azmoaa.org/donors/>.

Jon, I stand relieved.

January Luncheon

WHEN: January 21, 2017
 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, herb-crusted cod with tomato white bean bay shrimp ragout apple cobbler.

PROGRAM: Matt Scott will tell us the story of how the Unknown Soldier from World War I was selected.

Donations to Scholarship Fund

- Charlie Bitner \$130
- Ron and Donna Bright \$150
- Jennine Dahl \$100
- Steve Ferrara \$10
- Jesse Gersten \$50
- Sue Gilbertson \$50
- Robert and Norma Hinton \$100
- Bruce and Sherry Kosaveach \$250
- Dick and Debbie Minor \$100
- Dave and Susan Price \$250
- Charles Schluter \$100
- Jim Seidl \$100

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 January 2017 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 January 17.
 Cancellations after January 17 will be charged and not refunded.**

Welcome Our New Members

John W. White, Jr. Col USAF (Ret)
and wife Margaret of Phoenix

Dr. Christeen Verchot, Lt Col USAF (Ret)
of Phoenix

Please meet and greet our new members.



The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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	SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556	SHARE A RIDE CAPT Frank Hoak III, USN 480-664-0047

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

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



azmoaa.org



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