



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

12122 N 110th Street

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

November 2018

CHARTERED 1956

62 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JANET LANGE

President's Perspective

by Ron Bright



meeting.

Ben Franklin

When asked by a passerby on July 5, 1776, "What kind of government have you given us Mr. Franklin?" Ben Franklin replied, "A Republic, if you can keep it." And for 244 years Americans have fought and died defending our precious liberty to keep the Republic safe. For those of us who wear or have worn the uniform, the costs implied in those simple words have been daunting. I think Ben Franklin could foresee the struggles necessary to fully realize and protect our freedoms and his words were a reminder of the responsibilities every citizen has to ensure our country survives.

A basic responsibility is the duty to be an informed voter. I like to think that every time I vote, Franklin, Jefferson, and all of the founding fathers are looking over my shoulder and smiling.

Be sure to vote on November 6th and I look forward to seeing you all at the November 17 Luncheon.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours 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:

- Nov 8
- Dec 6

Member Meetings/ Luncheons are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145, McCormick Ranch Golf Club unless noted otherwise.

Upcoming meetings:

- Nov 17
- Dec 15 Christmas Party

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Attachment: VA Medical Center Director

October Picnic

Our October Picnic was attended by more than 60 members and guests who enjoyed wonderful weather, a great BBQ and entertainment by the Cimarron Sidekicks and our own Bruce Kosaveach who sang and played guitar. We welcomed prospective members with whom we will follow up to encourage them to join our group. I want to thank all of the volunteers who made it a success!

LOE Awards Night

Donna and I will be attending the LOE Dinner on November 1 to represent the chapter and receive the chapter's 15th consecutive MOAA 5-star Levels of Excellence award. The award will be presented by MOAA Chairman Gen John Sheehan, USMC (Ret) who will present Levels of Excellence Awards to over one hundred chapters and councils. Congratulations to all AZMOAA members. You made this award possible!

November Luncheon

Charlie Bitner, our treasurer will be out of town during our luncheon and our former treasurer, Bill Roscher will be standing in to take luncheon payments. We will not be to accept credit card payments at this meeting.

Service Awards — We will be recognizing a few of our members with the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) at our November luncheon for their contributions to the chapter. Previous MSA winners should wear their ribbons and medallions to the meeting.

Officer Slate — The chapter Nominating Committee, headed by 1st Vice President, Mike Rogers, has recommended, and the Board has approved, the slate for 2019 AZMOAA Chapter officers. The nominees are listed on page 4. The elections for next year's leadership team will be held as part of the November

Membership Update

by Dave Price, Membership Chair

Happy November! It's hiking season in Arizona so as I write this, my knees are still hurting from the stair master Pinnacle Peak Trail that Susan forced me to race up and down this morning. Actually, those of you who hike that trail know it really goes up and down and up and down and up and down and up and down; out and back over two large hills (small mountains)! But I digress...

In addition to hiking season, it's also **Chapter Membership Renewal Season**. Our chapter dues are...well...*due by 31 December for calendar year 2019*. Thanks SO MUCH to those of you who have already taken care of this! In about eight weeks, I'll start sending out the dues reminder messages to those who haven't done the due. "Happy Happy, Joy Joy feelings," as the movie quote goes (Which movie? Demolition Man, of course). To prevent me jamming up your e-mail inbox with AZMOAA dues spam, please avoid the holiday rush and send in your dues at your earliest convenience. I'd ask that we "secure the objective" in my pursuit of getting this dues thing done on time this year, but as the father of a Marine, I realize that the Marines would take that as an assault order.

Pay Dues Online at MOAA

We have benefited this past year from a couple of great technological advances. One of those is MOAA's online chapter membership dues collection tool and it has become a favorite way for many to take care of their local chapter dues using a credit or debit card. Just go to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx> and follow the online instructions. Select "renewal" and "Arizona Chapter," enter your contact information, choose the renewal term (up to three years!), enter your payment info and...presto chango... your dues are paid. Did I mention that you can pay dues for as many as 3 years? As I'm writing this, I'm also on the site paying my dues – get this – for the next three years! Now I can tell myself not to bother me with dues reminders until this time in 2021. Sweet relief! I'll bet most of us don't know that another benefit of this online tool is that National MOAA actually pays the setup, transaction and administrative fees for this service, making sure that our chapter dues all go to the chapter ... even if we pay them for 3 years!

Committee Module

The Committee Module is the other technology to which we have completed transition. This allows me and our chapter president direct access to National's database for our chapter members. This has reduced the workload for me (Susan says it's all about me) and for National MOAA's staff in the back and forth that was once required for reconciling our two rosters. It saves a lot of fat-fingering hours and the associated errors generated in DC and Arizona. As the guy who spends time correcting those errors, I have this dream of a "NO-fat-finger data reentry future" (I'm copyrighting this term) and you can all help achieve it. In your much-appreciated efforts at recruiting new members for the chapter, please have them use our online membership form at <http://azmoaa.org/membership/join-now/>. This will ensure I've got all of the proper information for both ours and National's rosters and also save on data entry errors and the back and forth when new members don't provide all of the needed information. My pledge to all of you is that I will use the time saved to the great academic benefit, of my much-tortured freshmen and sophomore engineering students. Our gain is their gain! Ok, I must now depart the pattern and think up creative engineering problems for tomorrow's quiz. Go Navy!

Warm regards,
Dave

Welcome New Members

Marti J Blue, Surviving Spouse

Col Kurt A Hammer, USAF (Ret)
and his wife, Cheri

LT Richard N Larsen, USN (Ret.)
and his wife, Susan

LtCol Ellen Lewis USAF (Ret)

Col David MacDowell USAF (Ret)
and his wife, Susan

Jo Ann Reinhardt, Surviving Spouse

AZMOAA Inductees into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2018



LtCol Ray Boucher, USAF (Ret)



Col Lee Lange, USMC (Ret)

OCTOBER PICNIC FUN AT MCCORMICK RANCH



CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN (Ret) entertains with a professional rendition of "Cool, Clear Water" accompanied by Cimarron Sidekicks (above right) and his backup singers (right).

Famous Dave's BBQ provided a delicious lunch of ribs, brisket, chicken, beans, cole-slaw, corn muffins and brownies.



AZ Chapter Officer Slate and Committee Chairs for 2019

Chapter members will vote on officers for 2019 at the November luncheon. The following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor at the luncheon.

Officer Slate

- President, CDR Mike Rogers, USN Ret
- 1st Vice President, Maj Pete Berger, USAF Ret
- 2nd Vice President, Col Tom Sheets, USMC Ret
- Secretary, Maj Dave Boyd, USAF Ret
- Treasurer, Col Charlie Bitner, USAF Ret
- Directors: CDR Jack Farley, USN Ret;
- LT Bob Hinton, USN (Fmr);
- CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN Ret;
- CAPT Jon Shawl, USN Ret;
- CAPT Judy Brooks, USN Ret
- LTC Ron Bright, USA Ret will remain on Board as Immediate Past President

Committee Chairs

- Arrangements, Col Lee Lange, USMC Ret
- Chaplain, COL Daniel Butler, USA Ret
- Electronic Transmissions, LtCol Jim Cullison, USAF Ret
- Golf Tournament, CDR Jack Farrell, USN Ret
- Historian/Photographer, LtCol Jim Cullison, USAF Ret
- JROTC Program, LtCol John Simmons, USAF Ret
- Legislative Chair, Col Lee Lange, USMC Ret
- Legislative Liaisons, Lee Lange, COL John Ady, USA Ret
- Membership, CAPT Dave Price, USN Ret
- Newsletter Editor/Advertising, Janet Lange, USMC Spouse
- Personal Affairs, Col Lee Lange, USMC Ret
- Programs, CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN Ret
- Scholarships, CAPT Phil Roos, USN Ret
- Surviving Spouse Liaison, Susan Farrell,
- Transition Liaison, CAPT Jim Draper, USN Ret
- ESGR, Vacant
- Public Affairs, Vacant
- Webmaster, Vacant

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.

Our Board Member, Bob Hinton, has recommended the following exhibition ...

Portraits of Courage, George W. Bush, Artist A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park

The exhibit includes a 4-panel mural and 66-full-color portraits of 98 service members and veterans who served with honor since 9/11 and came to know the President personally since he left office.

When: **October 19 - December 29, 2018**

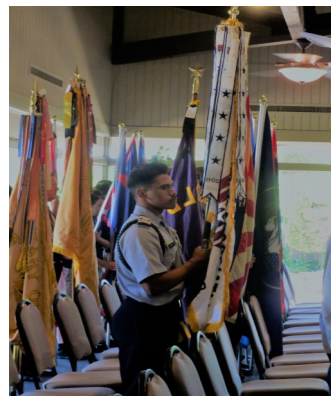
Where: **Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park
1300 North College Avenue, Tempe 85281**

Hours: **Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Closed Sundays

Admission: **Adults - \$12.00
Seniors 65+ - \$10.00
Ages 7 – 17 - \$8.00
Children 6 and under – Free
Military and Veterans with ID – Free
Arizona Historical Soc. Members – Free**

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE EXHIBITION HOSTS:
Arizona Historical Society
George W. Bush Institute
O'Connor Institute



MOWW 54th Annual Massing of the Colors

The Annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance sponsored by the Phoenix Chapter Military Order of the World Wars and organized by our own AZMOAA member, Dick Minor, was held September 9 at the B.P.O.E. Phoenix Elks Club Lodge # 335, located at 14424 N 32d St., Phoenix, Arizona. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts carried State, Territorial and Service flags and brought troops to carry organizational flags. The Naval Sea Cadets provided the Color Guard and the POW/MIA/KIA Ceremony and Antlers Elks Youth Group assisted with carrying Colors. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band provided a wonderful concert. This event is always held near the date of 9/11.



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange
Legislative Chair

Army Misses Recruiting Goal - Implications for All

Army Secretary Mark Esper, the U.S. Army 's top official, has pledged to overhaul the service's accessions strategy a little over a month after it missed its recruiting goal for the first time in 13 years. The Army failed to meet its recruiting goal for fiscal year 2018, falling short of its goal of 76,500 by 6,500 soldiers.

Meanwhile the Air Force, Navy, and Marines made their goals, but it wasn't easy. All of this is not surprising but is an ominous development for the future. History has shown us that in times of a strong economy, military recruiting becomes harder as young people have other options for employment that don't require a 24/7 commitment and laying your life on the line. Added to that is the fact we are entering the 18th year of the war on terror in Afghanistan and other places in the world.

The final piece is that benefits have been taking a beating for the last few years starting with a new military retirement system that is far less rewarding than the old system. Health care is also under pressure with DoD doing all it can to pass on more costs to the servicemember, even those on active duty. Pay raises were capped 2014 – 2016 creating a pay gap with the private sector. The target recruiting population is much smarter than DoD gives them credit for and seeing those things they first, don't want to join the military and second, don't want to stay. Once again, we've done it to ourselves. Stay tuned.

Biggest Pay Raise Yet to Come

The Employment Cost Index (**ECI**) will be released at the end of October and the number could result in another large pay raise for the active force. When the administration's budget was released in February, there was quite a buzz regarding the 2.6 percent military pay raise as it was the largest raise in nine years.

Not as well-known are the reasons the raise was so big. Under current law, the military pay raise is intended to match the Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries of private industry workers. The FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act established the ECI as the metric for the military pay raise.

The intent of tying military pay raises to private-sector wage growth is to keep military pay competitive. As the national cost of labor goes up, so too should the military paycheck. Disregard this for several years and it negatively affects not just recruiting, but retention. When servicemembers hear about wage growth for their civilian counterparts as their pay stagnates, it prompts the more skilled individuals to look outside the service ... and walk.

Previous pay raise shortfalls from the early 1980s through 1999 resulted in a huge 13.5 percent cumulative military-civilian wage gap. The impact to recruiting and retention was significant, leading Congress to increase raises above ECI between 2000 and 2010 when balance was finally restored.

There was a sharp setback in 2014-2016 with capped pay raises creating a new 2.6 percent cumulative pay-raise shortfall. For FY2017 – 2019, MOAA and The Military Coalition put on a full court press to at least get full-ECI raises. And they were successful. But the 2.6 percent gap remains.

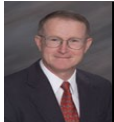
So, what's next? By the time you read this the ECI for 2018 will have been announced and will become the military pay raise target for FY 2020. Indications are the upcoming ECI will be somewhere between 2.7 and 3.1 percent - the largest raise in 10 years.

Not known is what the reaction of decision makers and legislators will be. One reaction might be to invoke the president's authority to cap the pay raise due to economic hardships (i.e., sequestration) or reasons of national security. Congress may again look deeper into personnel accounts and seek changes to housing or other allowances.

MOAA will be watching this as it unfolds, and they will put a full effort behind sustaining pay comparability with the private sector as this is essential to recruiting and retaining our all-volunteer force.

By-Laws Change — New Member Dues

The Board of Directors will request a vote from the membership at the November 2018 meeting to change the By-Laws regarding new member dues. The board voted to charge new members at application for dues. Historically, it has shown if there is "no skin in the game," there is little or no participation and the expenses from the general fund for keeping them on the rolls outweigh the benefit.



Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer

New TRICARE Dental and Vision Plans Online

The new TRICARE dental and vision insurance option for military retirees is set to be offered starting January 1, 2019. This is the first time retirees will also have a vision option. The new plan will be offered and administered through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

All TRICARE retirees and their families are eligible for both the dental insurance and the vision coverage.

The FEDVIP dental program of offerings will replace the existing TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP), which is currently provided through Delta Dental. That program will sunset Dec. 31, 2018. The retiree dental plan and the new addition of a vision plan will allow beneficiaries to make a selection from among 10 dental and four vision carriers with a variety of benefit options.

Action Required

- * Eligible beneficiaries must choose their plan during *TRICARE's open season, which is scheduled to be Nov. 12 - Dec. 10, 2018. Payment of premiums is by deduction from your military retired pay.*
- * *There will be no automatic transition for those beneficiaries currently enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. Beneficiaries will be required to enroll for coverage.*

Many Options Available

Coverage under the new plan will include features such as no waiting period for most dental services and no annual maximum benefit depending on choice of dental plans. For vision, features such as no deductible, no limit on brands for frames or contacts and discounts on LASIK will be offered by some of the available plans.

The 2019 plans are now available for review at www.TRICARE.benefeds.com. There are several tools to help you decide which plan is best for you including a plan comparison tool, numerous webinars and the ability to ask questions online. All plans include a provider search feature, so you can see if your current dentist/vision provider will take the new insurance.

COLA set for 2019: How Much Your Retired Pay Will Go Up Jan 1

The final Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay and social security benefits for next year is 2.8 percent. This means, starting Jan. 1, 2019, you would see an increase of roughly \$28 for every \$1,000 of retired pay and social security you receive.

This is the largest COLA increase since 2011 when it was 3.6%. Last year's increase was 2%. COLA increases are based on the inflation measurement period of the 3rd quarter (July, August, and September) compared to the previous 3rd quarter.

Bring a Toy, Spread Some Joy



It's that time again to think about the **TOYS FOR TOTS** program sponsored by the USMCR for the coming holiday season. Our chapter will again collect **NEW, UNWRAPPED** toys at our **NOVEMBER (only)** luncheon on the 17th for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center for their Toys For Tots program at Christmas. All members are encouraged to bring at least one toy to the November 17 luncheon for donation to this worthy program. This will be the **ONLY** toy collection date for our chapter.

Each year, the 9-12 year-old age group is the most difficult to accommodate. Suggested gifts include: sporting equipment/bags/balls; books, backpacks, purses, watch/wallet gift sets, bath gift sets, board games, radio control cars/trucks, hand-held electronics, skateboards/helmets, curling irons, hair straighteners, and hair dryers. Discourage donations include: stuffed animals, realistic looking weapons and food gifts.

Mike Rogers and Lee Lange will be coordinating our chapter's donations and will see that the toys are delivered to the USMCR Center. If you can help, bring your toy donations to the November 17 luncheon meeting. Mike Rogers, USN and Lee Lange, USMC, will be coordinating the project for our chapter and will deliver the toys to the Reserve Center.

November Luncheon

WHEN: November 17, 2018
 11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
 11:45 am Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch, Scottsdale

COST: \$25 Per Person reservation by 4 PM
 11/13/2018

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Roast Turkey Breast, Sage Stuffing,
 Whipped Potatoes, Turkey Gravy,
 McCormick Signature Salad, Pumpkin Pie

PROGRAM: Ms. RimaAnn Nelson, Medical Center
 Director of the Phoenix VA HealthCare
 System, will be presenting an update on
 The Phoenix VA Medical Center.

Arizona Chapter 2018-2019 Schedule

- November:**
- * Board Meeting on the 8th
 - * Luncheon on the 17th
- December:**
- * Board Meeting on the 6th
 - * Holiday Party on the 15th
- January:**
- * Board Meeting on the 3rd
 - * Luncheon on the 19th

OCTOBER CHAPTER DONATIONS

General Fund

Lee Lange \$100

Bruce Kosaveach \$100

TAPS

We recently learned of the passing of Past President
 of the Superstition Mountain Chapter
CDR Larry Rasmussen, USN (Ret)
 On Sunday, October 14, 2018
*AZMOAA extends heartfelt
 condolences to his family*

MANA House and Homeless Vets

LtCol Ron Green, USAF (Ret), who volunteers with
 MANA House and Homeless Vets, collected dona-
 tions at the October picnic to make up the deficit
 in their budget.

Ron is grateful and wanted to thank all of those
 who contributed!

MEAL/RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (name): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$25.00/person) for the November 17, 2018 luncheon. Make
 check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** at the luncheon. Or send check to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview
 Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com** by November 13.

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after November 13
 Cancellations after November 13 will be charged and not refunded.**

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: _____

November is :

- ◆ Adoption Awareness Month
- ◆ Aviation History Month
- ◆ Model Railroad Month
- ◆ National Novel Writing Month
- ◆ National Pomegranate Month
- ◆ Native American Heritage Month
- ◆ Peanut Butter Lovers Month
- ◆ Pepper Month
- ◆ Sweet Potato Awareness Month

Mark Your Calendars:

- November 1 -- National Men Make Dinner Day
- November 3 -- National Sandwich, National Housewife and Sadie Hawkins Day
- November 6 -- Election Day
- November 10 -- The Marine Corps birthday (since 1775)
- November 11 -- Veterans' Day
- November 13 -- Sadie Hawkins Day
- November 15 -- Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day
- November 17 -- Take a Hike Day
- November 22 -- Thanksgiving

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT LTC Ron Bright, USA 480-614-9463	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	CHAPLAIN COL Daniel Butler, USA 480-352-2682
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT CDR Mike Rogers, USN 925-360-4052	ADVERTISING Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	PERSONAL AFFAIRS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CAPT Dave Price, USN 831-233-8131	ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	PROGRAMS CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Chair 602-501-9876 Col Lee Lange, Vice Chair 703-232-3609
SECRETARY Maj David Boyd, USAF 202-617-0337	HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	ARRANGEMENTS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	JROTC AWARDS Lt Col John Simmons, USAF 623-326-5352	SCHOLARSHIPS CAPT Jon Shawl, USN 602-999-8253
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	LEGISLATION Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	TRANSITION LIAISON CDR Jim Draper USN 480-483-7769
DIRECTORS: CDR Jack Farley USN, Pete Veitenhans, USA; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach USN, CAPT Jon Shawl, USN; LT Bob Hinton, USN	MEMBERSHIP CAPT David Price, USN 831-233-8131	WEBMASTER COL Rob Welch USA 480-207-6446
	SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556	SHARE A RIDE Vacant

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

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