



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7101 E Indian School Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

OCTOBER 2019 CHARTERED Oct 1956 63 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JANET LANGE

President's Perspective

by Pete Berger



tournament raised over \$6,000. This coming year, we will need additional help to continue this success. Please help us with silent auction items and with donations from companies and people you know. Your personal contacts can be instrumental in our success.

The support of our members is, as always, the key to our success. It is very much appreciated as we continue our work to be of service to veterans and enjoy the camaraderie that is inherent in our organization.

Nominating Committee

The Chapter Nominating Committee has identified a slate of officers to serve in 2020. We will announce the names in a separate message to you shortly. We still have four openings in 2020 non-elected committee positions critical to our continued smooth operation and success including: Arrangements Chair, Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. If you are interested in serving in any capacity this year or in the future, please contact Chapter President, Pete Berger.



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:
• Oct 3
• Nov 7

Member Meetings/ Luncheons - held on 3rd Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145, McCormick Ranch Golf Club unless noted otherwise.

Upcoming meetings:
• Oct 19 Picnic
• Nov 16 Luncheon

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September Luncheon

Another season of camaraderie and service has begun for the Arizona Chapter, MOAA! It got off to a good start with our September Luncheon. I would like to thank Bruce Kosaveach for arranging another wonderful speaker who, while sharing his story of being a POW in the Philippines as a youth, reminded us of what we fought for as well as the human ability to endure and survive such difficult conditions!

Membership Drive

Our membership drive letter-writing campaign has received an early positive response with two new members. We hope more will follow. As always, our best recruiters are our own chapter members. Please help us by talking to your friends and acquaintances who are eligible to become chapter members and get them to come to a meeting. A great opportunity to do this is our **October 19 BBQ Picnic** at McCormick Railroad Park. Bring a prospective member and we will buy them lunch and make them feel welcome.

Or they can join us at one of our service football game tailgating parties that are being arranged as a joint venture between the chapter and the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce (SWVCC). The first game is Navy-Air Force, October 5th. Other ideas for recruiting and social events are always encouraged. Special thanks go to Bruce Kosaveach and Tom Sheets for these opportunities.

Patriot's Ball

Along with the games, the SWVCC and the Southwest Veterans Foundation are holding their annual Patriot's Ball on October 26th, honoring Korean and Vietnam Veterans. It is a wonderful event that should provide a memorable evening. See Patriots Ball flyer on Page 3.

AZMOAA Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

I also want to put in an early reminder for our golf tournament. Thanks to the herculean efforts last year of Jack Farley, Beth Cullison and others, the

Peter Berger, AZ MOAA President

Pete was born in Santa Monica, California, and raised in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Upon graduation from Trinity College in 1969, he was commissioned a 2nd LT through the Air Force ROTC.

His first operational assignment was at the 607th TCS at Luke AF Base. Pete flew 103 missions in Southeast Asia with the ABCCC. He returned to the 607th and then transferred to the Wing Social Action Office. In 1975, Pete was discharged from active duty and two years later, he joined the Air National Guard with the 107thTCS.

Pete finished as the DO for the worldwide deployable squadron which won several outstanding Unit awards. Pete now has a private practice in psychotherapy in Scottsdale.

In Memoriam

CDR James R Gwinn, USN was born on his family farm in San Martin, California. At age six, his parents took him to Oakland where he flew in an open cockpit, high-wing, single-engine plane flown by a WWI pilot. Jim joined the Navy in 1943 and entered the Naval Aviation Cadet program. During flight training, and after his commission, he married Mary Field and they started their family. Living all over the country with his young family, his favorite spot was the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey. He graduated as a Meteorologist in 1959.

When Jim retired from the Navy in 1964, he began a new career as a flight instructor for United Airlines. He left the training center and flew "the line" out of Chicago as first officer and then captain. His last flight as a United captain was in 1986. He remarked that he was looking forward to the many golf courses yet to be played and tournaments to win. His true passion in life was golf. He traveled to compete in the World Amateur Airline Pilots Association (ALPA), and other golf tournaments. He held multiple officer posts with the Colorado Golf Association and officiated tournaments when he wasn't playing. He is survived by his sister, Barbara, his daughters Kathryn and Patricia, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Lt Col George MacDonald

"My Life as a POW"

Our September speaker was Lt Col George MacDonald, USAF Ret, who spoke about his experiences after being captured by the Japanese in the Philippines as an 11-year-old boy at the start of WW II. George was the son of missionaries who were working in a small village south of Manila when WW II broke out on December 7, 1941 (December 8 in the Philippines).

When word came that the Japanese were landing nearby, the MacDonald family, along with other missionary families, moved to a small village outside of town to escape and moved several more times before the Japanese finally captured them. The family was taken to Manila and placed under house arrest for some time before being sent to the Los Banos compound north of Manila in 1944.



Lt Col George MacDonald and AZMOAA President Pete Berger

Finding enough food became the dominating issue for the family and others interred at the camp. At Los Banos, the family grew food to supplement their diet as food supplies grew scarce. They existed on 1200 and later 800 calories a day and several missionaries died of starvation.

News came to the family from illegal shortwave radios. In late 1944, word of U.S. landings in the Philippines reached the camp. As U.S. troops neared the camp, fears spread that the Japanese would kill prisoners. Alarmed, General MacArthur ordered a rescue operation. A combined force of airborne troops and amphibious vehicles rescued the civilians in the camp, freeing the 2100 prisoners on February 23, 1945. George and his family finally made it back to the United States by ship, arriving in San Francisco in April 1945. George went on to a long career in the Air Force and then taught others to fly Lear jets in a second career.



The Board of Directors of the Southwest Veterans Foundation (SWVF)

cordially invites the members and guests of the

Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

to our **5th Annual Patriots Ball** to help us

Remember Those Forgotten—the Veterans of the Korean & Vietnam Wars

Saturday October 26, 2019 from 5:30 to 11:00 pm at the

Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort 11111 N 7th St Phoenix, AZ 85020

Tickets: \$125 for Members of the SWVCC; \$150 for Non-members

Attire: Cocktail Attire/Uniforms--Formal Wear Optional

Tickets: Available at www.swvffoundation.org, the September MOAA Luncheon, or at 602.677.2961

Profits benefit the SWVF, an IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports Veterans & their families.



2019 55th Massing of the Colors Ceremony

Zachary Weigle carrying our chapter colors in the parade of flags at MOWW's Massing of the Colors and Ceremony of Remembrance September 8 at the Phoenix Elks Lodge. Zachary is a member of the Elks' Antlers Youth Group. Veterans organization, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC units and other patriotic groups were represented at this 55th annual observance.

Treasurer's Report - DONATIONS by Charlie Bitner

General Fund:		Scholarship Fund:					
Mike Rogers	\$50	John Ady	\$25	Jack Farley	\$70	Shar Roos	\$250
		Pete Berger	\$150	Robert Hinton	\$30	Bill Roscher	\$25
		Charles Bitner	\$175	JR's Shoe Repair	\$25	Mike Saladino	\$50
		Bogey Boys of AZ	\$250	Bruce Kosaveach	\$185	Roger Schartzer	\$179
		R E Boucher	\$100	Lee Lange	\$235	John Simmons	\$50
		John Colman	\$100	Ron Perkins	\$375	Suzanne Taussig	\$100
		Jim/Beth Cullison	\$160	Dave/Susan Price	\$250	Peter Tramone	\$50
		Dean DiMickele	\$75	Mike Rogers	\$200	Dan Wochos	\$150
		Clark Ewing	\$25				



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair
Legislative Chair

Defense Authorization Bill Nears End Game

Congress went back to work September 9 and have convened the Conference Committee charged with finalizing the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Bill (NDAA).

The "conferees" are selected lawmakers from each chamber tasked with ironing out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Their job is resolving a number of issues including several critical to MOAA members, including:

- preventing the elimination of up to 18,000 medical billets
- ending the widows tax
- fixing unsafe military housing conditions
- improving early Guard and Reserve retirement

Lawmakers initially set an ambitious timeline for completing the defense bill before the October 1, start of the new fiscal year. However, disagreements between the House and Senate now mean the bill won't receive a final vote until mid-October.

TAKE ACTION Now

This means it's increasingly likely DoD will have to begin the new fiscal year under a stopgap spending measure known as a continuing resolution (CR). With time running out, this may be your last chance to help influence what makes it into the bill. Act now to send your elected officials a **MOAA-suggested message**: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=502302>

Regarding the widows tax repeal, Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL) plans to introduce a "motion to instruct" senators to accept House-passed language in the FY2020 NDAA to repeal the widows tax. While a motion to instruct is nonbinding, it provides critical guidance to Senate leaders as they conduct negotiations with their House counterparts. This is a chance for your senators to take a stand and show their support for military survivors. To date, 75 senators cosponsor Senator Jones's bill to end the widow's tax.

Take action by dialing 866-272-6622 to use MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill Switchboard to connect with your senators' offices and say:

*My name is _____ and I live in _____.
If brought up for a vote, please VOTE YES on*

Senator Jones's motion to instruct defense conferees to adopt House language to repeal the widows tax. Thank you."



Personal Affairs

Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer

Commissary/Exchange Merger Moving Forward

Major changes to the commissary and exchange system may be closer than ever. Without action by Congress, a four-way merger will occur between the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and the three military exchanges: the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), the Navy Exchange (NEX), and the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX).

MOAA is following the proposed merger closely, and concerns are mounting as more details about DoD's plan are made public. The Defense Department commissioned a business case study to be conducted on the four-way merger last year. The Enterprise Management Task Force recommended moving forward with consolidation and DoD reaffirmed their support in August with the public release of the report to Congress. MOAA's review of the report leaves many unanswered questions as to why a merger is necessary and how it will protect servicemember and family benefits.

What Are Impacts to Beneficiaries?

The big question is what impact consolidation efforts may have on MWR funds. It is important to note that the exchanges are funded by revenue generated from sales while commissaries are funded using appropriated defense funding. If DeCA is merged with the exchanges, DoD could use exchange profits to offset commissary appropriations. If this occurs, MWR funds would be reduced, hurting servicemembers and families. Reductions in MWR could have unintended consequences on readiness, as these support services are critical to military operations.

Take Action Now

A promising sign is that Congress is directing the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to get involved. The House version of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Senate report language both call on GAO to validate the expected impact on patrons, employees, and MWR funds.

Personal Affairs Continued on Page 8



OCTOBER 19, 2019 MOAA BBQ PICNIC

Scott Hallock and Suzanne Kiraly

Scott has been performing for over 30 years solo, duo and with bands. For the past 7 years, he has been performing with vocalist, guitarist, and percussionist, Suzie Kiraly. They play over 600 songs in the genres of classic rock, acoustic folk, bluegrass, country, tropical rock, reggae, and alternative rock, from the 50's to the present, as well as Scott's original music.



REGISTRATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17th. \$25 per person includes lunch. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA or mail to: Tom Sheets, 25215 N. 42nd Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85083, 623-444-7683, tomsheets@cox.net.

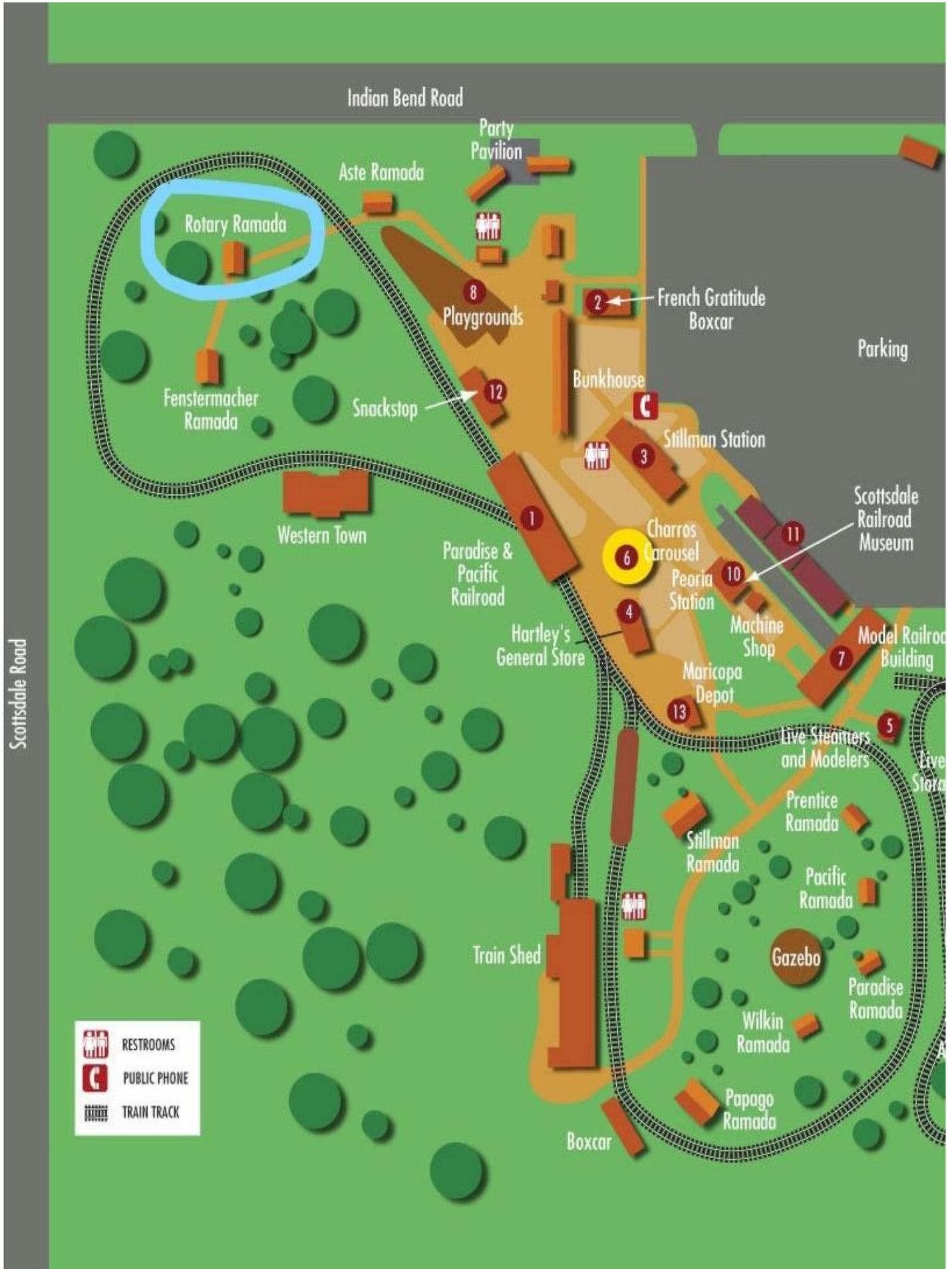
Annual MOAA
Arizona Chapter
BBQ/Picnic

11AM-2PM

Bring a
prospective
member



McCormick-Stillman
Park
Indian Bend &
Scottsdale Roads
Rotary Ramada
map attached



October 19 BBQ Picnic

WHEN: October 19, 2019
 11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
 11:45 am - 2pm Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Stillman RR Park
Rotary Rotunda, Scottsdale
 Map is attached

COST: \$25 Per Person reservation by
 4 PM on 11/15/2019

DRESS: Casual ~ Picnic Attire

MENU: BBQ Picnic

PROGRAM: **Scott Hallock and Suzanne Kiraly**
 Classic Rock, Acoustic Folk, Bluegrass
 Country, '50s to present, etc.



TAPS



*It is with great sorrow that we
 inform you of the passing of*

*CDR James R Gwinn, USN (Ret)
 June 20, 1926 - August 3, 2019*

*Beloved Father of
 Kathy Minck*

*Our heartfelt thoughts go out to
 his sister, Barbara, his daughters
 Kathryn and Patricia, four grandchildren
 and two great grandchildren*

Arizona Chapter 2019 Schedule

October 2019:

- * Board Meeting on the 3rd
- * BBQ - PICNIC on the 19th

November 2019:

- * Board Meeting on the 7th
- * Luncheon on the 16th

December 2019:

- * Board Meeting on the 5th
- * Luncheon on the 21st

Welcome New Member!

Lt Col Andrew Perona, USAF, Ret

Please meet and greet our newest!

CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to **make a donation** to one or more of the **AZ Chapter Funds**, include a separate check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Tom Sheets, 25215 N 42nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85083, email: TSheets@stonewall-group.com, 760-213-3705.**

General Fund: \$ _____ Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ [a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor: _____

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (name(s): _____)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$25.00/person) for the **PICNIC on October 19, 2019.**

Your check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** can be delivered at the luncheon or mailed to: **Tom Sheets, 25215 N 42nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85083, email: TSheets@stonewall-group.com, 760-213-3705 .**

Credit Cards will be accepted at the luncheon.

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after October 15.
 Cancellations after October 15 will be charged and not refunded.**

Personal Affairs by Lee Lange (Continued from Page 4)

MOAA supports the GAO review and is optimistic that their impartial review, if approved in the 2020 NDAA, will provide recommendations for how the DoD should proceed. Chapter members are encouraged to take action and reach out to their members of Congress and tell them to adopt Section 631 of the House version (H.R. 2500). This section provides essential Congressional oversight and ensures an objective review is completed on the proposed merger. To help you do this, MOAA has provided a preformatted editable message for members to click on to communicate with their legislators at: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?8&engagementId=502113>

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2019 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

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

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