



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7912 E. Cactus Wren Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

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

### President's Perspective

by Pete Berger



#### MONTHLY PROGRAMS

The annual **BBQ Picnic** at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park proved to be a wonderful success once again. Thanks to Bruce Kosaveach for bringing in the excellent entertainment and for some singing himself. Also thanks to Lee and Janet Lange and their assistants for organizing and setting up the BBQ from Famous Dave's! This month we return to our usual venue and will listen as Mario Diaz gives us inside information on the Army as it is today. It should be very interesting! We also look forward to our annual **Christmas Party** on December 21 featuring our **Chinese Auction**. Anyone (or couple) choosing to participate will need to bring a gift to exchange.

#### AZ MOAA CONTRIBUTES

To continue our tradition of helping others, please bring a **NEW UNWRAPPED Toy** to our November 16 meeting where we will be collecting for the annual **USMCR Toys for Toys** campaign sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve. This month is our **ONLY** chance to donate as the program actually closes out that day! Please remember also to bring the **blue bags** of recommended items for homeless veterans. If you do not

have a blue bag, you can use any bag and fill it with the items as outlined on **Page 7** of the Sentinel.

#### NOVEMBER NOTES

The Nominating Committee, consisting of myself, Tom Sheets, Ron Bright and Lee Lange, forwarded the names of the proposed Officers and Directors to the Board of Directors where they were approved for release to the membership. There is one Director vacancy. These names will be voted on by the membership at the November meeting. If you are considering serving on the chapter's leadership team, the vacant Director position is an excellent opportunity. Please let me know if you are interested.

Arizona Chapter, MOAA - Officers and Directors 2020

President - MAJ Pete Berger USAF Ret

1st Vice President - Col Tom Sheets USMC Ret

2nd Vice President - CDR Jack Farley USN Ret

Secretary - CAPT Judy Brooks USN Ret

Treasurer - COL Charles Bitner USAF Ret

Past President - Col Lee Lange USMC Ret

Director - LTC Ron Bright USA Ret

Director - CAPT Bob Fiegl USN Ret

Director - CAPT Bruce Kosaveach USN Ret

Director - Janet Lange, USMC spouse

Director - VACANT

The Nominating Committee asked all Committee Chairs (which are not elected) to continue serving in 2020. The following key positions still need to be filled: Arrangements, Membership and Sentinel Editor.

#### MIKE ROGERS

Jack Farley has been visiting with Mike Rogers and his family and was able to visit with Mike and Diane last week. He reports there has been a *slight* amount of progress so we want to remember to keep Mike in our prayers. I thank Jack for representing our Chapter with Mike and his family. This is another and very personal form of service that I like to think personifies our Chapter.

#### NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

November 11 is **Veteran's Day**. Please take this opportunity to remember to honor all of our veterans — along with ourselves! I wish you all a very **Happy Thanksgiving**. I know there is much for which to be thankful, including the great camaraderie in the Arizona Chapter, MOAA!



#### 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 7
- Dec 5

**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:

- Nov 16 Luncheon
- Dec 21 Christmas Party

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Doug Gray and Donna Donovan enjoyed the music!

October 19, 2019

## AZ MOAA Picnic

### McCormick - Stillman RR Park



Scott Hallock and Suzanne Kiraly perform for us in Scottsdale



Doug Gray proudly wears his "NEVER UNDERESTIMATE AN OLD MAN WITH A DD-214."



Jim Cullison searching for the perfect photo opportunity and Lee Lange checking the BBQ



John and Sharon Ady in foreground with MOAA friends



Norma and Bob Hinton, Pete Berger and Barbara show their appreciation for the entertainment.



Bruce Kosaveach, right, joins the entertainers for one song to open the program



## MEMBERSHIP—Dave Price, Membership Chair

### Dues are due 1 January 2020!

I begin this entry to the Sentinel with a reminder for everyone to pay their annual chapter dues. Your chapter dues enable the all-volunteer officers and directors to ensure the chapter remains viable and operating per our charter. We are a very efficiently-run organization on a very tight operating budget that is nail-biter close every year, especially when members fail to pay their dues. Since I've been tracking our dues, we annually have many members who lapse; some perhaps deciding that they're just not interested anymore but some might have simply forgotten to pay. Believe it or not, as I write this, we still have over 30 people who didn't pay their dues for 2019; dues that were due last January 1st! Some of these are relatively new members who might confuse chapter and national dues, though our request for information on their desires for continued membership have gone unanswered. But many on the dink list are members who have been in good standing for years. Unfortunately, our bylaws state that a member who fails to pay dues "shall be classified as 'delinquent' after sixty (60) days and shall be dropped after ninety (90) days." We work long and hard to avoid actually dropping people, but we did drop 17 members who didn't pay dues in 2018 and are now looking at dropping nearly 30 from 2019. Yikes! Please take action on your 2020 dues as soon as possible. If you're not sure if or what you owe, please e-mail me at [daveandsusanprice@cox.net](mailto:daveandsusanprice@cox.net).

### Our AZ Chapter Members honored as inductees into the **Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame** for volunteer work outside of their military careers



Paula Pedene and family



Tom and Lisa Sheets



Katie Hobbs and Wanda Wright with Paula (Left) and Tom (Right)



### *Welcome New Members!*

**MAJ Robert Balutowski USA (Ret)**

**CW3 John Barber USAF (Ret)  
and wife, Shannon**

**Lt Col Jason Barlow USAF (Ret)  
and wife, Jane Barlow, MD**

**LTC Thomas Eisiminger USA (Ret)  
and wife Rebecca**

**LCDR Albert Herr III USN (Ret)  
and wife Jaye**

**Lt Col Thomas Trainor USAF (Ret)  
and wife Deborah Sullivan-Trainor**

**Please meet and greet our newest!**



2019 AZ Veterans Hall of Fame



## National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

### Congress is Back – With A Lot of Work to Do

Lawmakers returned from recess October 14 and conferees continued work on the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). In so doing, they have the chance to work toward enacting meaningful reforms for servicemembers past and present, and their families.

MOAA continues its efforts to ensure critical language reaches the final version of this bill. Specifically, MOAA is working toward a bipartisan NDAA that would:

- Delay [a proposed reduction of up to 18,000 military medical billets](#) until Congress conducts a full and transparent assessment of how this proposal would affect military health care.
- Eliminate the “[widows tax](#),” a \$12,000-a-year financial penalty faced by more than 65,000 military survivors.
- Improve early Guard and Reserve retirement credit for troops activated under certain orders.
- Call for the Government Accounting Office to conduct an independent review of the business case analysis supportive of [merging the military’s commissary and exchange systems](#).
- Establish essential rights for [military families in privatized base housing](#).

Language supporting these positions already has cleared a major hurdle – reaching the conference stage of the NDAA process. However, while many of the above proposals have strong bipartisan support, their inclusion in the final bill is far from a sure thing. MOAA needs your voice added to the push. So [send a letter](#) and get your friends in MOAA to do the same.

### Retired Pay Increase Announced for 2020

The annual [Cost Of Living Allowance](#) (COLA) will be 1.6% in 2020. Military retirees, and social security recipients will see a 1.6% increase in their monthly checks starting in January, 2020. Members who receive disability benefits from the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), and survivors receiving Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities will receive the same increase. The 2020 COLA is considerably smaller than the 2.8% increase in 2019.

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## Personal Affairs

Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer

### Retiree Dental/Vision Plans Open Season Coming

Last year, DoD introduced the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) to military retirees. In preparation for year two, the 2019 Federal Benefits Open Season will run from Monday, November 11, through Monday, December 9. If you are currently enrolled in FEDVIP and want to keep your dental and/or vision plan in 2020, no action is required.

### The 2020 rates are available

If you are currently enrolled, FEDVIP recommends that you use their plan comparison tool to search for your FEDVIP plan and determine if your premium will change in 2020. If you wish to make changes to or cancel your coverage, you must log into your account during open season. If you are not currently enrolled in FEDVIP and want to sign up for one of the plans offered you must do so during the open season. Plan comparisons and pricing are now available on the [www.benefeds.com](http://www.benefeds.com) website using the FEDVIP comparison tool.

Overall, FEDVIP dental rates will rise by an average of 5.6% for 2020. Vision premiums will increase an average of 1.5%. The change in dental premiums range from a decrease of -5.9% to an increase of 9.5% depending upon your location. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) states that two primary factors drove increases this year: 1) the health care insurance providers fee, which had been suspended in 2019 but reinstated in 2020 and 2) an increase in utilization of services in a number of dental plans.

### Average monthly Dental Premiums in 2020:

Self \$39.29  
Self Plus One \$77.00  
Self and Family \$112.88

### Average monthly Vision Premiums in 2020:

Self \$11.09  
Self Plus One \$22.13  
Self Plus Family \$31.99

**PEARL HARBOR DAY (December 7, 2019)**

On December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day) the chapter will be participating in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at 10:55 AM Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Wesley Bolen Plaza near the state capitol. This year marks the 78th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and Arizona is the only state still conducting a ceremony to mark the event. Chapter members will participate in the wreath laying portion of the ceremony with the chapter wreath. Also expected is a fly-over of WW II vintage aircraft. Mark your calendars.

**Mario E. Diaz**

**Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army – Arizona North**

Mr. Diaz is President of Mario E Diaz & Associates, a government and business development consulting firm in Phoenix. He works closely with elected officials from the federal, state, and local levels of government throughout the country. He will address the modernization of the Army and the goals for a future ready Army.

**“The role of Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army”**



**Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

**REGISTRATION/RESERVATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**\$25 per person** includes lunch. Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and Send to:

Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028 or [Charles@Bitner36.com](mailto:Charles@Bitner36.com)



**National Legislative Update** by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair (Continued from Page 4)

**Retirement Pay Increase**

As a result of the increase, the average [military retirement](#) check for an E-7 with 20 years of service will go up by \$38 a month, while an O-5 with the same time in service will see a \$72 monthly increase. Overall, the 1.6% increase means that retirees will get an additional \$16 for every \$1,000 in government benefits they receive.

**VA Disability Increase**

Disabled veterans will also get a bump. The average [VA disability check](#) will go up about \$2 per month for those with a 10 percent rating, and \$49 for those rated at 100 percent.

**Other Federal Retirees and Beneficiaries**

Federal Civil Service retirees, and Social Security recipients will also see the 1.6% jump in their monthly checks. For Social Security recipients, the monthly increase will mean an extra \$12 per month for the average beneficiary.



Col Tom Sheets, USMC (Ret)

**2019  
Annual  
Patriots  
Ball**

**Sponsored by**




Nicole Crites, AZ Family, Master of Ceremonies



COL Schluter (left rear) and LTC Ron & LTJG Donna Bright, (right front)



COL and Mrs. Charles Schluter

**Scholarship Donations**

**Micki Morris \$40**  
(returned winnings at picnic)

**Susan Farrell \$40**  
(returned winnings at picnic)

**Patricia M. Graves \$100**  
(contribution in memory of Frank Hoak)

**2019 Air Force vs. Army Football Game Party**

*Saturday November 2, 2019*

*American Legion Post 44*

7145 E. 2nd St  
Scottsdale, AZ

*Tailgate Party (inside) starts at 1130;  
Kickoff at 1230*

[www.swvcc.org](http://www.swvcc.org)  
602.677.2961

*\$5.00 per person Event Support Fee*

### November 16 Luncheon

**WHEN:** November 16, 2019  
 11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour  
 11:45 am - 2pm Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
 7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

**COST:** \$25 Per Person reservation by  
 4 PM on 11/12/2019

**DRESS:** Business Casual

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

**PROGRAM:** Mario Diaz, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army – Arizona North



**Pack a bag with veteran care items:**

- \_\_\_ toothbrush
- \_\_\_ toothpaste
- \_\_\_ shampoo
- \_\_\_ handwipes
- \_\_\_ hand sanitizer
- \_\_\_ deodorant
- \_\_\_ lotion
- \_\_\_ Chapstick
- \_\_\_ comb/small brush
- \_\_\_ Band-aids
- \_\_\_ female hygiene items (for women's bag)
- \_\_\_ underwear (men's or women's bag)
- \_\_\_ socks
- \_\_\_ mittens
- \_\_\_ bottle of water
- \_\_\_ cough drops, mints or gum
- \_\_\_ Granola Bar or Protein Bars
- \_\_\_ pack of crackers with cheese OR
- \_\_\_ pack of crackers with peanut butter

### Arizona Chapter 2019 Schedule

#### November 2019:

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

#### December 2019:

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

### 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: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020**, or contact him at: **602-943-0028, Charles@Bitner36.com**.

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 luncheon on **November 16, 2019**.

Your check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** can be delivered at the luncheon or mailed to: **Charlie Bitner, Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, Charles@Bitner36.com**.

Credit Cards will be accepted at the luncheon.

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after November 12.**  
**Cancellations after November 12 will be charged and not refunded.**

**USMCR TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign**

Please do not forget the Marine Reserve Toys for Tots and bring a NEW (unwrapped) toy to our November 16 luncheon meeting. (No toys will be collected in December as November 16 is the end of the campaign.)



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

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Maj Pete Berger, USAF 602-739-0586	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> COL Daniel Butler, USA 480-352-2682
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b> Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705	<b>ADVERTISING</b> Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	<b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
<b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b> VACANT	<b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	<b>PROGRAMS</b> CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Chair 602-501-9876
<b>SECRETARY</b> CAPT Judy Brooks, USN 623-810-5790 Sherry Kosaveach, USAF Spouse 602-501-9876	<b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	<b>ARRANGEMENTS</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
<b>TREASURER</b> Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	<b>JROTC AWARDS</b> Lt Col John Simmons, USAF 623-326-5352	<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> CAPT Phil Roos, USN 928-420-2130
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> LTCOL Ron Bright, USA 480-614-9463	<b>LEGISLATION</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	<b>TRANSITION LIAISON</b> CDR Jim Draper USN 480-483-7769
<b>DIRECTORS:</b> CAPT Judy Brooks, USN; CDR Jack Farley, USN; LT Bob Hinton, USN; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN; CAPT Jon Shawl, USN.	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> CAPT David Price, USN 831-233-8131	<b>WEBMASTER</b> VACANT
	<b>SURVIVING SPOUSES</b> Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556	

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [azmoaa.org](http://azmoaa.org)

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