



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7912 E. Cactus Wren Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

JUNE 2020

CHARTERED Oct 1956

63 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

JANET LANGE, EDITOR

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President's Message

by Pete Berger



Summertime, Summertime ...

Summer begins officially on June 20th and ends September 22nd, just after our first membership luncheon meeting in many months ... we look forward to it! Your Board of Directors has continued to work on projects as we have been meeting on Zoom during this time.

AZ MOAA Chapter Secretary

Judy Brooks submitted her resignation to the BoD for personal unforeseen circumstances. We want to thank her for her work as Secretary and look forward to seeing her in the Fall. Lee and Janet Lange were successful inviting Dave Boyd to return as Secretary for the remainder of 2020 and possibly 2021. He was our Secretary in 2018 until his beloved Elizabeth suddenly passed at the November 2018 MOAA Convention.

Membership Chair

Bob Fiegl has taken the reins of the Membership Chair position as Dave Price has been interested in reducing his involvement due to a future move out of state. Dave has done great work in this demanding position and we are thankful for his efforts and for Bob's willingness to step in.

Fundraising

Tom Sheets and Jack Farley have been working fundraising activities adding hundreds of dollars to our

scholarship fund. Look for the next email auction in June featuring dining out opportunities. Many thanks to Jack and Tom for their efforts.

Programs

Bruce Kosaveach obtained a MOAA Grant for community service, making our AZ Chapter honored to be one of four in the state of nine chapters. He is coordinating with National MOAA on publicizing our joint venture with Youth for Troops, which will most likely occur in the Fall. Great job Bruce!

The Survey

Lee Lange coordinated with Paula Pedene to send out the membership survey which has given us some good ideas to consider. We appreciate the participation and we will bring some ideas to the membership in the Fall. It will most likely be a variety of options since no one schedule can work for all. Donna Bright will join her husband, Ron, volunteering on the Social Committee. The BoD members have enjoyed calling our members in our "Buddy Check" effort.

I hope you are well and dealing with the COVID-19 crisis in ways that keep you healthy and that you find relaxing and rewarding. Remember to stay in touch with each other. I look forward to seeing you in the Fall. Should you have any concerns or ideas please do not hesitate to contact me.

ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA CALENDAR

Board of Directors — 1st Thursday of the month at 1030 hours unless otherwise noted
Location: National Guard Regional Training Institute 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85008. Show ID at Gate. Members welcome.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

- July 11
- September 3

Member Luncheon/Meetings — 3rd Saturday of the month unless otherwise noted. Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145-1400, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258 **Reservations are Required.**

Upcoming Luncheon Meetings:

- September 19
- October 17
- November 21





National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

Virtual Storming Up to Us Now

In the May sentinel, I told you MOAA canceled the annual Storming the Hill signature event, previously set for March 21-26 in Washington, D.C. While the ongoing pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person events connected to Storming the Hill 2020, MOAA will continue its advocacy mission with a Virtual Storm.

To do that MOAA asked council and chapter members to take the lead. The one issue MOAA is asking us to take to our legislators is the need to protect the military health care benefit by stopping DoD's planned 18K billet reductions and downsizing of 48 Military Treatment Facilities (MTF's). We have scheduled virtual meetings with the staff of Senator Sinema, Representative Gallego and Representative Schweikert in early June.

See MOAA's link at <https://www.moaa.org/moaastorms> and click on the Issue Paper for health care. While chapters have specific responsibility for selected U.S. Senators and Representatives, every chapter member can help by sending messages to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators.

Ask your members of Congress to join the fight to halt the 18K billet reductions and end military treatment facility downsizing amid COVID-19 uncertainty. You can do this by calling their Arizona district or Washington offices or by sending them a message formatted by MOAA online. Click on the link you want on the site above for MOAA help in contacting your U.S Representative and U.S. Senators. Contact all three to get the most impact.

Lawrence William DeSanto, MD

"Larry" was drafted into the Air Force Medical Corps in 1961. He was based at Cannon AFB in New Mexico and served overseas in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. He returned to complete his residency in Otolaryngology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. He enjoyed many friendships including one with Paul Schnur.

Arizona State Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

Arizona State Legislature Ends Session – Or Not?

After passing an \$11.8B 2021 budget, the Senate adjourned May 8. But the House remained in session and is now considering legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. What will happen next is unknown but legislation passed by the House will need the Senate in session to act on it before it can go to the Governor for signature. While all this plays out, what we do know is that the important veteran's issues for this year did not move forward.

Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBC's)

Supporters had hoped to see at least six new VBC's funded this year to meet a pressing need in the state. But this initiative did not get into the budget passed on March 23, so the issue is very much in doubt.

Tax Exemption on Military Retired Pay

Governor Ducey's call for full exemption of military retired pay from state taxes did not get traction in the Arizona legislature. A major factor is the \$45M price tag which is proving to be a heavy lift for supporters. This initiative is now stalled while the legislature turns its attention to countering impacts to the state economy from COVID-19.



TAPS



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our friend and chapter member

*Col Lawrence DeSanto, USAF (Ret)
1935 – May 1, 2020*

Beloved Husband of Lorelee

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Lorelee and family

May “Great Art Deals” Email Auction

Tom Sheets

We continue to work on replacing revenue lost from the cancellation of the Annual Golf Scholarship Fundraiser. Last month we auctioned a RIGID Three Speed Impact Driver, a reversible Patriotic Coach Tote, and two bottles of Monte Olimpo Wine by email. May featured three art pieces—all from well-known artists with a special story behind them. They included:

Norman Rockwell’s ***Doctor and Doll***, his first work in which he did not use human models.

Ted De Grazia’s ***Bell of Hope*** canvas print, an Arizona artist who rode five miles into the Superstition Mountains on horseback and burned 100 of his original works to protest being taxed on them by the IRS

Leroy Neiman’s ***Equestrian***, from the 1972 XX Olympiad, in which the Israel athletes were murdered in the Olympic Village in Munich

We thank all members who participated in this month’s auction. These three items were won by Peter Berger, Jeff Pierce, and Chuck Christoph. A special shout out to them for submitting the winning bids and contributing to our Scholarship Fund.

In June, with our restaurants reopening, we will feature our ***“It’s Time to Dine Out Again”*** restaurant gift card auction. It will offer a \$100 gift card to Flemings, a \$50 gift card to Paul Martins, and a \$50 gift card to Vito’s Pizza and Italian Restaurant. Watch your email around June 8th for details and instructions for bidding

AZ Chapter MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

April 22 to May 25, 2020

\$100➤ (Silver Sponsor)

Judy Brooks - \$100
James Castleberry - \$100
Paul Schnur - \$100
Jon Shawl - \$100

\$35➤ (Bronze Sponsor)

McDowell Mountain Builders, LLC - \$71
J W De Matteo - \$50
Monyou Tong - \$50
James Sandow - \$25

Arizona Chapter MOAA would like to express our gratitude for your support to the Scholarship Fund.

We are most grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness during this Coronavirus epidemic.

SUPPORTING VETERANS IN TIME OF HEIGHTENED NEED

Tom Sheets

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need among many of our most vulnerable Veterans—the homeless. Our Chapter received 96 “dental kits” compliments of Colgate. Each kit consisted of a toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss. We divided these among three projects supporting homeless Veterans: **MANA House**, **James Walton Home/Project Veterans Pride** (led by Chapter Member Christeen Verchot), and the **Benson Motel for Veterans in Tucson**. This may seem like a little thing to us, but it was deeply appreciated by all the Veterans who received these items critical to their health. Each organization passed on their deepest thanks for thinking of them in this time of need. Thanks to Jack Farley for being the force behind this initiative.

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

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