



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7912 E. Cactus Wren Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

NOVEMBER 2020 CHARTERED Oct 1956 64 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY JANET LANGE, EDITOR

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President's Perspective by Pete Berger



Fall Meetings

Temperatures have finally begun to decline ... we are now in the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s this past week. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 numbers have again started to rise! Given this reality and with everyone's health in mind, your Board of Directors has decided to cancel the remaining in-person membership meetings for the remainder of this year. In addition, our venue at McCormick Golf Club has informed us that they would like to defer hosting our events for the remainder of 2020. We will continue to hold our virtual chapter meetings. Thanks to all who participated in our enjoyable Virtual Wine Tasting event that Tom Sheets coordinated on October 17. Our October meeting gained more participants than the September meeting, so we want to build on that. I look forward to seeing you again on Wednesday, **November 18 at 4:30 pm Happy Hour** for our **Arizona Chapter Annual Membership Meeting** to vote on our Chapter Officers and Board of Directors. Stay tuned for further information. We have some other ideas in the works for future events.

Staying in Touch

During this national crisis, I encourage all of us to stay in touch with our fellow chapter members. Our Chapter exists in part to support each other in difficult times. Reach out to one another and let each other know that you are there to support. Speaking of support, National MOAA has grants available for individuals who need financial assistance to pay necessary bills because of COVID-19. Please contact me for more information if you know someone who could benefit.

Holiday Donations

Since we will not be meeting in person, our usual Christmas projects of Toys for Tots and Homeless Veterans Bags cannot be facilitated by the Chapter. We encourage our members to donate individually to these worthy projects. You will find contact information for them on Page 5.

Dues are DUE

Since I am writing about money, allow me to remind you that our 2021 dues are due **1 January 2021**.

Continued on Page 2

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:

Zoom October BOD 16 @ 0800

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 Membership Meetings:

- **November 18 @ 1630 Annual Membership Meeting**
- December Meeting TBA



President’s Perspective (Cont’d from Page 1)

We are keeping the dues at \$20/year and kindly request that you mail yours in early to reduce our collection efforts. The Dues form below can be used for both 2020 and 2021 dues. I would also like to remind you to stay current on your National MOAA dues and also encourage members to become Life Members of MOAA if that is feasible. The lobbying efforts in Washington have helped so many Veterans and Surviving Spouses over the years that it is money well spent.

Veterans Day

On November 11, we honor our military veterans for the dangers they faced and the sacrifices they made for us. There are a few parades in surrounding areas to honor our brave men and women. Check out the following link: <https://phoenix.org/veterans-day-parades-and-celebrations-around-the-valley/>

Remember Everyone Deployed

Fridays are **RED Shirt Days** and you may order a red shirt for you, your significant other, children and grandchildren to wear on Fridays at:

<https://business.swvcc.org/store>

Happy Thanksgiving

Lastly, on behalf of your Board of Directors, I want to wish all of you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving! Even in these difficult times there is much for which to be grateful. The opportunity to be part of our Chapter and to continue to serve our great nation are worthy of our gratitude. Please be safe and keep yourself healthy. I look forward to meeting in person in the future.

Peter Berger, AZ Chapter MOAA President



2020/2021 Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership
2020/2021 AZ CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

Payment of dues is required by **February 29, 2021** to avoid becoming delinquent. Even if you have become delinquent, you can still RENEW by completing your information below and sending it with your check — **\$20/year for a Regular Member** or **\$10/year for Surviving Spouse Member**. Please make your check payable to **“AZ Chapter MOAA”** and mail to: Treasurer **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020.**

Please check: Dues for **2020** _____ or Dues for **2021** _____ (or both)

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

Please make any CHANGES to Address/Contact Information below:

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

What Does the Continuing Resolution Mean and What Happens Next?

As predicted, Congress has again missed its deadline to pass necessary appropriation bills to fund the federal government for the new fiscal year. Instead, a continuing resolution (CR) will provide stopgap funding for government activities through December 11. So, what does this CR do?

It will fund programs and activities at FY 2020 levels, and it will extend several authorities and programs, including:

- Medicare Part B premium adjustments, and other Medicare and Medicaid-related authorities and programs.
- Authorities related to veterans' benefits.
- Authorities related to immigration.

MOAA appreciates elected officials securing short-term funding to avoid a costly government shutdown, but urge Congress to get back to regular order and ensure predictable and timely funding of our government activities – and stop the habitual use of CRs in lieu of a full federal budget.

Those in uniform and their families count on their government to support them as they serve. They need Congress to push forward on passing a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), backed up by full appropriations, so they can do their job without delays.

But the congressional track record on this issue is abysmal – Congress has passed an on-time budget in just five of the last nineteen years. Something needs to change.

In the coming weeks, as MOAA tracks what may be on the horizon for the new December 11 deadline, we need members and other readers to let their elected officials know that short-term budgets are unacceptable. **Your voice makes a difference.** Go to www.moaa.org and click on Advocacy, then click on Legislative Action Center. Send a message to your U.S Representative and Senators urging the passing of a budget for FY 2021.



Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer

1 FEDVIP Pricing Schedules Released

In mid-October, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) finally posted the long-awaited 2021 Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) pricing schedules.

Every FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan holder should take a few minutes to check whether the scheduled 2021 pricing for your current plan provider continues to meet your family's dental and/or vision needs.

If you are comfortable with your plan's scheduled premium increase (or decrease, in some cases) and were pleased with the benefit itself overall, then do nothing – your plan will roll over under new premium pricing beginning Jan 1, 2021.

If you're looking to make a change, remember the 2021 FEDVIP **open season will run November 9 to December 14, 2020**. MOAA Premium and Life members can get some guidance on shopping for a new plan by watching [this MOAA webinar](#) (you must log in to access).

If you are considering signing up for the first time for dental and/or vision insurance under this government sponsored program, go to www.benfeds.com for information on the benefit and tools to allow you to compare offerings from various providers participating in FEDVIP. New users will be able to enroll during the open season dates noted above.

Licensed Professional
Counselor

Licensed Independent Substance Abuse
Counselor

PETER A. BERGER, MPC, LPC, LISAC
Associated Recovery Counselors

7101 East Indian School Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-429-6292

ARIZONA CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Since we cannot safely meet physically, we will be holding our required AZ Chapter 2020 Annual Meeting of virtually by using Zoom. Our meeting will be held on **Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 4:30 pm.**

Per our bylaws, our official business will include:

- Annual Reports
- Determination of Annual Dues for 2021
- Election of Officers and Directors
- Other Business

We will also present the information included in our standard monthly member meeting agenda. Our bylaws require that we have a **quorum of 10%** of our membership present to conduct official business so we hope you will plan to join us.

We also will be looking for your suggestions and opinions about our plans for 2021 while dealing with the future unknowns of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Zoom link for our meeting is:

<https://zoom.us/j/99333596743?pwd=U1ZObms3NGUrc09ibXZKUyVvYW02UT09>

Meeting ID: 993 3359 6743

Passcode: 410980

If you are a first-time Zoom user or would like more information about navigating the Zoom world, please contact Tom Sheets at tsheets@stonewall-group.com, or 760.213.3705.



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PROPOSED OFFICER/DIRECTOR SLATE 2021

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2nd VICE PRESIDENT Jack Farley
SECRETARY Dave Boyd
TREASURER Charlie Bitner

DIRECTOR Ron Bright
DIRECTOR Jim Cullison
DIRECTOR Bob Fiegl
DIRECTOR Bruce Kosaveach
DIRECTOR Janet Lange
PAST PRESIDENT Lee Lange

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADVERTISING Janet Lange
ARRANGEMENTS Charlie Bitner
CHAPLAIN *Vacant*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Continued)

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS Lee Lange
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS Janet Lange
WEBMASTER Carl Ulbrich – Jireh Communications
ESGR (Eployer Support Guard and Reserve) *Vacant*
HISTORIAN/PHOTOGRAPHER Jim Cullison
JROTC PROGRAM John Simmons
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS Lee Lange
MANA HOUSE LIAISON *Vacant*
MEMBERSHIP Bob Fiegl
NEWSLETTER Janet Lange
PERSONAL AFFAIRS Lee Lange
PROGRAMS Bruce Kosaveach (Chair),
PUBLIC AFFAIRS *Vacant*
SCHOLARSHIPS Phil Roos
SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS Lee Lange
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON Susan Farrell
TRANSITION LIAISON Jim Draper



Please consider making a financial donation to **Toys For Tots**, this holiday season since we cannot meet to donate our toys this year.

Toys For Tots **Mail:** <https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/donation-docs/mail-in-donation-form.pdf>

Toys For Tots **Online:** <https://donate.toysfortots.org/donate/forms/simple/Default.aspx>

We also cannot meet to bring hygiene and food bags to our homeless veterans as well. **MANA House** and **Project Veteran's Pride** are wonderful places to donate and receive DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR TAX CREDIT on your Arizona state tax return for 2020.

Mana House Mail-in Donation: Catholic Charities/Mana House, 2422 W. Holly Street, Phoenix, AZ 85009 (If issuing check to Catholic Charities, please write "**Mana House**" on check memo line.

Mana House Online: <https://www.manahouseaz.org/donation/campaign-pages/help-a-veteran-today>

Project Veteran's Pride Mail: Project Veterans Pride, **Attn:** Christine Verchot, 6720 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017

Project Veteran's Pride Online: <https://pvpjwh.org/donate/>

Thank you for remembering our Military Families and Veterans this Holiday Season.

The Final Golf Auction Results by Jack Farley

Following are the results of the 3rd and final golf Auction:

301	Legacy	\$140	Jerry Lynch
302	Sunridge Canyon	\$180	Jack Farley
303	Apache Wells	\$100	Pete Berger
304	McCormick Ranch	\$100	Pete Berger
305	The Boulders	\$168	Lyman Schleip
306	Legend Trail	\$208	Jack Farley
307	Raven	\$168	Jack Farley
308	Stonecreek	\$140	Jim Kidwell
309	Foothills Group	\$50	Ron Perkins
		\$1,254	

The Total amount raised for the three golf auctions is \$4,424. Coupled with the prior auctions of Restaurant Coupons, Art Work, Miscellaneous Items and \$2,518 in Golf Donations (in lieu of the golfers playing), we already raised over \$8,000. We still have an Activities Auction and a Stay-Vacations Auction planned for the future and we estimate exceeding the Golf Tournament/Silent Auctions of the past. Tom Sheets and I will hold off on those until people are more comfortable in getting out and about. Bottom Line: The Scholarship Fund is covered for 2020 despite COVID-19.



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Saint Barbara's Day Dining Out Reservation

Saturday, 5 December 2020

Stockyards Steakhouse

5900 E. Washington St. Phoenix,

Arizona Regiment Hosted Cocktails: 1800

Dinner & Program: 1900-2200

Dress:

Military: Army Service Uniform, Mess Dress Civilian: Suit

Ladies: Appropriate Attire

Hotel Reservations: None

Members — \$90.00 /\$45.00 Individual

Non-Members...\$180.00 / \$90.00 individual

\$5 of per plate cost will be donated to Army Emergency Relief Fund

Mail RSVP form below and payment to arrive NLT 30 November 2020

to: 180th Field Artillery Regiment Association

P.O. Box 7856 Chandler, AZ 85246-7856

Please email any questions or concerns to: SaintBaz@outlook.com

Saint Barbara's Day Dining Out - RSVP by ASAP - Seating is Limited

(Please Print) Rank/Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Military Organization _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Add Association Membership \$20.00. \$110.00 for couple, \$65.00 for Individual.

Only paying Membership \$20.00

Amount Enclosed \$_____ *Check payable to "OEFARA"*

180th FARA PO BOX 7856 Chandler AZ 85246-7856



Saint Barbara, the patron saint of field artillerymen in the Army and Marine Corps

St. Barbara, the legendary virgin martyr of the early church, is also the patron saint of Army and Marine Corps artillerymen. According to Legend, dating back to the 7th century, she was the very beautiful daughter of a pagan and tyrant, Dioscorus. He kept her guarded in a tower to protect her from the world. But when she professed Christianity and refused marriage, he became enraged and took her to the provincial prefect who ordered her beheaded. Dioscorus, himself, performed the execution and, upon his return home, God struck him with lightning and reduced him to ashes. Accounts name the ancient Egyptian city of Heliopolis, Nicomedia or a town in Tuscany, as the scene of her sufferings. The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara is awarded to artillerymen who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence and served the Artillery with selflessness at their annual December St. Barbara's Day Feast.

PRESIDENT Maj Pete Berger, USAF 602-739-0586	ADVERTISING Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705	ARRANGEMENTS Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	PERSONAL AFFAIRS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CDR Jack Farley, USN 412-779-0372	CHAPLAIN COL Daniel Butler, USA 480-352-2682	PROGRAMS CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN 602-501-9876
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TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	JROTC AWARDS Lt Col John Simmons, USAF 623-326-5352	TRANSITION LIAISON CDR Jim Draper USN 480-483-7769
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	MEMBERSHIP CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN 850-207-9845	

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

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