



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7912 E. Cactus Wren Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

APRIL 2021

CHARTERED Oct 1956

64 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

JANET LANGE, EDITOR



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President's Perspective by Pete Berger



It's Spring!

Spring has started and we are looking forward – cautiously – to COVID being reduced to the point of limited concern. The rapidity with which the vaccines are being made available makes us hopeful that we will be able to resume normal operations later this year.

March Meeting

We had 32 members in attendance at our March meeting and eight more on Zoom. We are hoping this will increase in April but do understand and fully respect those who want to stay safe by avoiding meeting in person. Once again, we are grateful to Bruce and Sherry Kosaveach for coordinating the March hybrid meeting.



April Scholarship Meeting

At this writing, your BOD is waiting for the three ASU ROTC programs to respond to an invitation to attend our **April 17 Scholarship Membership Meeting** where we present three cadets/midshipmen with \$2500.00 Scholarships. Continued on Page 2

AZ CHAPTER MOAA CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings
First Thursday of each month
unless otherwise noted

May Zoom Board Meeting:

May 6 @ 0900

Member Luncheon/Meetings
Third Saturday of each month
unless otherwise noted

April 17, 2021

**Social Hour at 1100,
Luncheon 1145-1400**

**Scottsdale American Legion 7145 E.
2nd Street, Scottsdale 85251**

Reservations Required by 4/13

President’s Perspective (Cont. from Page 1)

We will let you know shortly if they will be able to attend. If we cannot include the scholarship awards, an alternative program will be arranged. As of now we will have another hybrid member **meeting/luncheon April 17** at the American Legion Post 44 and via Zoom.

We are continuing to encourage members to get caught up on their dues. We want to work with everyone on making this happen. We do understand that life circumstances change and some will need to disengage. If a member is three years or more in arrears, I will call them personally to encourage them to stay with us. I will soon do the same with those two years in arrears. As always, I also want to remind members to be current with their National MOAA dues and to pursue Lifetime Membership with MOAA National if possible. MOAA does a lot of good work on our behalf and all veterans.

Bob Fiegl and his membership committee are doing excellent work at bringing in new members. Be sure to introduce yourself when you meet one of our new members to help them feel welcome.

Tom Sheets and Jack Farley are setting up a fund raiser for the Chapter to benefit our General Fund. We hope you all can participate.

The Southwest Veterans Foundation (SWVF) is also hosting a fundraiser in which we are included.

Please stay safe and healthy. We encourage you to continue to practice the basic safety protocols of mask wearing and social distancing. Reach out to your buddies and make sure they are OK. We are on the 15-yard line and it is no time to fumble the ball now.

I am look forward to seeing you all soon!

Peter Berger, AZ Chapter MOAA President



**Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership
DUES RENEWAL**

Dues for 2021 were payable on January 1. **Dues became DELINQUENT on March 1, 2021.** If you have become delinquent, you can still pay your 2019, 2020 and 2021 Dues by completing the form below with your information 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.**

Dues for **2019** \$ _____ Dues for **2020** \$ _____ Dues for **2021** \$ _____

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

Please make any CHANGES to Address/Contact Information below:

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



Arizona Chapter MOAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ELIGIBILITY: Men and women who are or have been federally commissioned in one of the seven U.S. uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard), or NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) or U.S. Public Health Services, the National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services, and Surviving Spouses of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership as defined above.

Full Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____

Service Status: Active (includes Reserve/National Guard) Retired
 Former Officer Warrant Officer
 Surviving spouse of deceased MOAA member OR eligible individual

Date of Birth _____

Are you a Member of National MOAA: Yes No Your MOAA Number is: _____

If you are not currently a member of National MOAA, you may request membership at moaa.org

_____ Or you may request the AZ Chapter Membership Chairperson, Bob Fiegl, to enroll you for a no-cost Basic Membership for 3 Years.

Chapter Dues are \$20.00 per year for a Regular Member and \$10 for a Surviving Spouse.

Dues for new members joining: Jan 1–Jun 30 = **\$20**. Jul 1 – Dec 31 = **\$20** (includes following year paid in full).

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Please mail check payable to AZMOAA with completed application to:

Treasurer Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

How did you learn about the Arizona Chapter? AZ MOAA Website *The Sentinel* Newsletter
 AZMOAA Member Membership Chairman Other (_____)

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.



Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

President's Budget Delayed: What to Expect and When

There is no firm release date for the president's FY 2022 budget request, though inside sources tell MOAA it will come in mid- to late April, almost three months later than normal – confirming the timeline put forward by Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), the House Budget Committee chairman.

The president is required by law to submit the administration's annual federal budget request to Congress no later than the first Monday of February every year. While the delay with President Joe Biden's budget request is significant, it is not unprecedented for new administrations to deliver their requests late.

This delay puts Congress on the clock to meet the end-of-fiscal-year deadline to pass all 12 of its appropriations bills in about five months, ensuring the federal government is funded when the new fiscal year begins. Unfortunately, Congress has faced challenges meeting the October 1 deadline for enacting the annual budget. Over the last two decades, the federal government has started each new fiscal year operating under a continuing resolution.

The upcoming fiscal year's defense, VA, and other national security budgets are likely to be tighter compared to previous fiscal years due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The potential exists for the administration or lawmakers to seek cost savings through offsets from the uniform service and veteran communities as concerns over the growing national debt become more intense.

MOAA will continue to engage with Congress and the administration to ensure those in uniform and veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors are prioritized in this upcoming year's budget. MOAA's upcoming annual advocacy campaign, Advocacy in Action, will be the launch event for our engagement on the FY 2022 NDAA and appropriations bills.

State Legislature Continues Work

Arizona's state legislature has been in session since January 11 and is tackling a wide array of issues including possible changes to voting rules in the state and revising Arizona's unemployment benefits program.

There are several bills of interest to veterans still in play:

- **SB 1172** – Calls for \$25M for a State Veteran's

Home in Mohave County. This represents state share of construction costs. The federal government must put up 65% of construction costs or money will not be spent. The bill passed by Senate on February 11 and was sent to the House. The bill passed the House Military Affairs Committee March 1 and House Appropriations Committee March 10. Awaiting House floor action.

- **SB 1331** – Veterans' Income Tax Exemption on Military Retired Pay. Calls for full exemption, retroactive to January 1, 2021. Priced at \$45M. Passed by the Senate February 17 and sent to the House. Assigned to House Ways and Means and Rules Committees. Awaiting committee action.

- **SB 1443** – Military Family Relief Fund. Expands eligibility criteria to include both pre and post 9/11 service. Allows hiring of professional staff to speed application processing. Passed by Senate February 18. Amended and passed by House on March 11 and returned to Senate. Passed and sent to the Governor who signed bill March 18.

- **HB 2706** – Veterans Benefit Counselors (VBC's). Appropriates nearly \$1M to hire additional VBC's to help veterans in state submit earned benefits claims. Top priority of Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) for several years. Passed by House on February 25 and sent to the Senate. Assigned to Appropriations and Rules Committees. Heard and passed by Appropriations Committee hearing on March 16 marking the first time this issue has had a hearing in the Senate. Sponsor, Rep Richard Andrade, believes bill provisions will be included in state budget for FY 2022, due at the end of the current session.

Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



IRS Deadline Extended: 8 Things You Should Know

The federal tax deadline has moved to May 17, but as with everything else tax-related, it's best to check the fine print. MOAA staff member, Kevin Lilly, provides tips for filers who may be rethinking their tax-prep plans thanks to the extension.

1. It's not for everybody: Deadlines for quarterly estimated tax payments didn't change. If you have a first-quarter payment due April 15, it's still due April 15.
2. It may not be for state taxes. If your state collects income taxes, it sets its own deadline for doing so. Right now, Arizona state tax returns are due April 15. The state legislature is considering a bill to move the date to May 17.

Continued on Page 10



March 20, 2021

HonorHealth Military Partnership Program

Lenore Portante, CPT, USA (Ret)
Military Partnership Supervisor

HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center

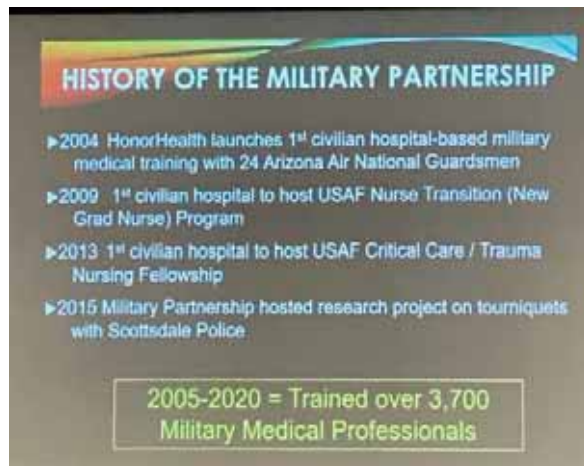
March Speaker, Lenore Portante enlisted in the Army in December 1979 as an Intelligence Analyst. She attended military schools in Monterey, CA and Goodfellow AFB, TX before her 1st assignment at Ft Stewart, GA. Assigned to Field Station Berlin and Ft Hood TX before attending Officer Candidate School at Ft Benning, GA in Oct 1987.

Her officer assignments included Ft Hood, TX; deployment to the Gulf War; V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany; and Ft Irwin, CA where she retired as a Captain in December 1999.

Lenore's family moved to Scottsdale in April 2000, and she was hired by HonorHealth in 2006. She became the first full time employee of the Military Partnership in 2008.

The HonorHealth Military Partnership Program began in 2004 and since then, the program has trained more than 3,000 soldiers and airmen in trauma and deployment skills at the 7,500 square foot training center on the HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center campus. All branches of the military, active duty, National Guard and Reserves may participate along with Scottsdale and Phoenix Fire Departments.

Clinical rotations are customized, hands-on experiences that enable military personnel to practice needed skills, particularly in preparation for deployment.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ms Kathleen A Haley,
Surviving Spouse
of LCDR Haley, USN (Ret)

Lt Col Edmund Ketely,
USAF (Ret)
and his wife, **Theresa Ketely**

Please meet our New Members at the
April 17 Scholarship
Luncheon/Meeting

Who can join MOAA

Eligibility: Men and women who are or have been federally commissioned in one of the nine U.S. uniformed services:

- Army**
- Navy**
- Air Force**
- Marine Corps**
- Coast Guard**
- Public Health Services**
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**
- U.S. Space Force**

National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services.

Widows and widowers of deceased individuals who would be eligible for regular membership, if living, in accordance with the above.

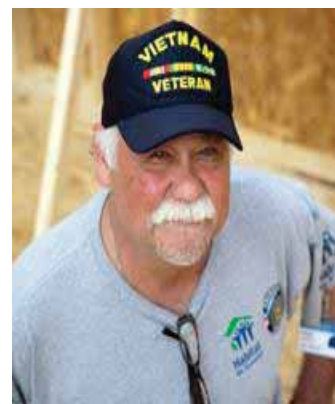
Serving Those Who Served ...

Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona is proud to partner with U.S. Military Veterans and families of veterans in Maricopa County and portions of Pinal County. Military veterans can pursue Habitat's pathway to affordable homeownership. Or, if they already own a home, Habitat can help with much needed repairs or modifications to an existing residence.



Veterans and their families in need of affordable housing or home repairs must meet all of Habitat's qualifications (including income guidelines). They must also be able to demonstrate their veteran status from the United States Military.

Habitat Central Arizona believes that everyone should have a safe and decent place to live, and we know that Veterans encounter unique and complex challenges as they transition from military to civilian life. This program seeks to address the housing piece of life after service. If you or someone you know is interested in our Veterans Program, contact us 602-268-9022 and ask to speak with Family Services.





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**AZ Chapter MOAA
 DONATIONS**

**December 2020 through March
 2021**

General Fund:

Lee Lange	\$600
John Ady	300
Peter Berger	200
David Boyd	150
Ronald Bright	20

Scholarship Fund:

Sue Gilbertson	\$50
Al Crawford	50
Edward E Balaban	20

APRIL

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 Holy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 4 Last Day of Passover
- 5 Gold Star Spouses Day
- 9 National Former Prisoner of War
Recognition Day
- 12 American Civil War
- 16 Emancipation Day
- 19 Patriots' Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 30 Arbor Day

The Sentinel newsletter is published by the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

MOAA and its affiliate chapters and councils are non-partisan.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM SPEAKER

How to cultivate Veteran Champions

LtCol Kathy Lowery Gallowitz, USAF (Ret)

Kathy is working to help veterans coming off active duty and assimilating into the civilian workforce. “The military trains them to go to war, but no one trains them to come home”. Her message is for civilian employers to be *veteran champions* by hiring vets and benefitting not only them but also the community. Veterans are valuable members of the workforce that research has shown to be better performers than their civilian peers, and remain with the companies that initially hire them 8.3% longer than nonveterans.

Kathy’s book, **Beyond “Thank You for Your Service”** is a veteran handbook for civilians, and describes to employers the positive attributes that veterans can bring to the civilian workforce. She provides information on how to hire and retain veterans and helps bring employers up to speed on military culture, and what it means to be “Veteran-Friendly” vs “Veteran-Ready.”

Her organization, Vanguard Veteran™ helps equip civilians and employers on how to support veterans and their families in their neighborhoods and in places of worship and work, how to earn a “Veteran Champion” award, and resources to become an “Arizona Veteran Supportive Employer.”

Cultivating Veteran Champions helps make every day Veterans Day!



Personal Affairs (Cont. from Page 4)

3. COVID-19 concerns. Economic Impact Payments – the IRS term for stimulus checks – were issued in multiple iterations in recent months. If you're not sure how these checks will affect your taxes, or what to do if you didn't receive the full impact payment, visit this IRS link:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/recovery-rebate-credit>

4. Tax prep help: Veterans. Check out the IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/information-for-veterans> for details on free filing options, veteran-specific tax issues, and more.

5. Federal tax tips from MOAA. A two-part series at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/your-2020-taxes-understanding-the-secure-act/> discusses what the SECURE Act (changes to IRA's/RMD's) and CARES Act (Coronavirus relief) changes to the Tax

Code mean for your 2020 taxes.

6. State tax tips from MOAA. [MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide: https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard/](https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard/) offers a full breakdown of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Rules on taxation of military benefits, to include retirement pay, change frequently.

7. Good reason to file early. While you have more time to get your paperwork to the IRS, delays will only hurt your bank account if you're expecting a refund. E-filed refund requests are usually issued within 21 days, per the IRS (likely longer with recent new stimulus payments still being made).

8. Need more time? Taxpayers can request an extension through Oct. 15 via IRS Form 4868. That extension is for filing only – tax payments themselves remain due by May 17, with interest accruing thereafter.

April Luncheon Menu/Program

DATE: April 17, 2021

11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour

11:45 am - 2pm Lunch

**PLACE: Scottsdale American Legion Post 44
7145 E. 2nd Street, Scottsdale 85251**

**COST: \$25 Per Person
Reservations by 4 PM 4/13/2021**

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

**PROGRAM: ASU ROTC Cadets/Midshipment
Presentation of \$2,500 Scholarships**

APRIL LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

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

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$25.00/person) for the March Luncheon Meeting on **April 17, 2021**, payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by **4/14/2021** to :
Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020,
or contact: **Charles@Bitner36.com, 602-943-0028,**
Credit cards will not be accepted at the luncheon.

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after April 13, 2021 @ 4pm
Cancellations after April 13, 2021 at 4 pm will be charged and not refunded.**

April Online Veteran Support Fundraising Auction



We want to remind you that we will partner with the Southwest Veterans Foundation (SWVF) and Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce (SWVCC) for a 9-day, online fundraising auction. This auction is scheduled for April 17-26. Funds will be used to support Veterans and their families.

Since we are a member of the SWVCC, we can co-host and participate in this auction with no up-front fees or expenses. Additionally, we can have hundreds of people participating from the comfort and safety of their homes for over a week, not just one day.

To maximize the success of this auction, we need your help in obtaining quality donation items for the auction and in letting others know about the auction. It is not limited to the Southwest Veterans Community and our AZMOAA Chapter. Please let family, friends, neighbors and other organizations in which you are a member or you support know about it. What types of items should you obtain from donors? Items on which you and others would be interested in bidding. Popular items in past auctions have included wine, golf, art, activities and recreation (especially outdoor), retail and restaurant gift cards, tools and jewelry.

We are not asking members to buy these things. Rather, we hope you will find businesses and individuals to donate these items at no cost. So far we have about 50 items, but could still use a few more if we can acquire them quickly. Items must be photographed (unless an internet image is available), Fair Market Value (FMV) obtained, auction writeups created, and all uploaded to the auction site. When you obtain donated items be sure to also get the FMV if not self-evident (such as a price tag or a \$100 gift card to Flemings has a FMV of \$100).

Please contact Tom Sheets by email t.sheets@swvcc.org or call him 760.213.3705 when you have obtained a donation item so we can arrange for mail or pickup, and complete the process of preparing the auction site.

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Counselor

Licensed Independent Substance Abuse
Counselor

PETER A. BERGER, MPC, LPC, LISAC

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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CDR Jack Farley, USN 412-779-0372	CHAPLAIN Vacant	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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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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