



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter

The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



OCTOBER 2021 CHARTERED Oct 1956 65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY JANET LANGE, EDITOR

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President's Perspective by Pete Berger



Fall is finally here and we are looking forward to the return of our annual Picnic at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on Saturday, October 23rd. Bring a prospective member at no cost to them or you!

We will serve an excellent BBQ lunch and listen to live music, including a couple of our own chapter members who sing. Do not miss this one.

On September 11, we held our 9/11 Remembrance event and the Air Force vs Navy football game at the Famous 48 sports bar in Scottsdale which proved very successful. We observed the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 by remembering the many Americans lost that day and then watched the Air Force Academy beat the Naval Academy (no bias here).

Our September 18 Membership Meeting at McCormick Ranch was the first time back in our regular meeting place in two years. The meeting, attended by fifty members, heard an excellent presentation by Maj Gen Kerry Muehlenbeck, Arizona's Adjutant General. She spoke at length on her responsibilities as head of Arizona's National Guard forces and as head of the state's Division of Emergency Management.

We have just received preliminary results of our recent "Never Forget" online auction to help veterans. We teamed with the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce and Southwest Veterans Foundation with each organization potentially receiving about \$2000. I would like to thank our Vice President Tom Sheets, and 2nd Vice President Jack Farley and others in planning and executing this impactful event.

Please remember to be safe as you venture out as the Delta COVID variant is still spreading. Vaccinations are slowly rising in number and I hope all of you are in that increasing number.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Patriots Ball on October 16 and all of you at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on Saturday, October 23!

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.



Bob Fiegl, AZ Chapter Membership Chair

FieglR869@gmail.com

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.

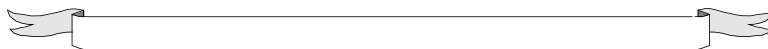
Widows and widowers of deceased individuals who would be eligible for regular membership, if living, in accordance with the above.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Captain Leonard E. Boeder, USAF
and his wife, Kay**

**CW2 Lawrence Reese III,
USA Active**



Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership

DUES RENEWAL FORM

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 Past Dues by completing your information below and send it with your check — **\$20/year for a Regular Member** or **\$10/year for a Surviving Spouse Member** payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA" and mail to:

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

Dues for 2021 \$ _____

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

Please make any *CHANGES* to your Contact Information below:

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



Federal Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

Defense Bill Update: Where MOAA Priorities Stand

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) finished marking up its version of the NDAA on September 2. The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) completed its markup of the NDAA earlier this summer, but bill text from both committees is not publicly available. More changes could come via floor amendments and the conference committee process before the bill is finalized.

What's In

Pay Raise: Both the House and Senate versions include a 2.7% military pay raise. While MOAA is happy to report this raise remains tied to the Employment Cost Index (ECI), it fails to address pay raises below the ECI in 2014-2016, resulting in a pay gap of 2.6%.

Basic Needs Allowance (BNA): This Advocacy in Action topic has overcome several obstacles thanks to MOAA member engagement. Pending any surprise outcomes from the NDAA conference, BNA will be included in the final NDAA. This provision provides a new allowance to young military families with multiple dependents who have struggled with food insecurity - many relying on food banks on or near military installations.

Medical Billet Reductions: The House version of the NDAA contains a provision extending the halt of proposed medical billet reductions for a year after the bill's passage. Maintaining quality medical care is more important than ever. Recent medical personnel deployments to local hospitals, the uncertainty around COVID-19 variants, and the plan to cut children's hospital outpatient service reimbursements (a threat to network participation/access to civilian care) are all areas of concern for MOAA.

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC): The House bill includes ANC language that voiced concern over those who could be forced to a different cemetery and required DoD and the VA to submit "a joint report on the location of the next national cemetery." This impactful report language signals intent from Congress to DoD to continue the benefit of full military honors like those provided at Arlington. Draft eligibility changes are still on track to be published (as directed in the 2019 NDAA) in the late fall of 2021. MOAA

continues to advocate for language that would require DoD and the VA to maintain current eligibility standards at ANC until the next location is operational.

Military Justice Reform: The House and Senate will update the Uniformed Code of Military Justice this year and address disturbing trends in rates of sexual harassment and assault, and notable personnel and capacity shortfalls in the investigatory and legal functions identified by DoD's independent review committee. Provisions adding sexual harassment as a punishable offense, creating specialized military prosecutors, and placing decision authority to refer a case to courts-martial with a military prosecutor are likely for inclusion into the final version of the NDAA.

Selective Service Enrollment for Women: The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service recommended to Congress last year that women should register for selective service. This year, that provision is likely to be included in the final NDAA. With only 20% of 18-to-21-year-olds in the U.S. able to meet the physical and psychological standards for service, it is difficult to ignore half of the population in the event of a national emergency. MOAA remains committed to protecting the all-volunteer force and not returning to the draft.

What's Out, for Now

Concurrent Receipt: The Major Richard Star Act, a piece of concurrent receipt legislation supported by more than half the Senate and nearly 120 House members, is a pending NDAA floor amendment. The Star Act amendment is timely, as the news is replete with tragedies in Afghanistan, leaving many veterans thinking of sacrifices and those we lost. Servicemembers forced to retire because they were injured in combat – like Maj. Richard Star, USAR, who passed away earlier this year – had their retirement pay reduced for every dollar of VA disability compensation they were awarded. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) are expected to propose the Star Act as an amendment; contact your lawmakers and ask them to support this effort:

TRICARE Young Adults: Legislation that would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26 (military kids lose TRICARE coverage at age 21 or 23 if a full-time college student) to bring TRICARE in line with commercial

Legislative Update continued on Page 4

Legislative Update Continued from Page 3 ...

plans, another of MOAA's Advocacy in Action topics, did not make it into the SASC or HASC bills. Military kids face extraordinary challenges throughout their childhoods – as they transition to adulthood, we must ensure they have the same health care protections as their civilian peers. Learn more about the next stage of this legislative fight, including MOAA's work with the National Military Family Association, at this link.

What's Next?

Now that both the HASC and the SASC have passed their respective versions of the legislation, the bills will be voted on in each chamber. No dates have been released for when these votes will take place.

The coming weeks and months will be critical as key legislators work to pass this pivotal piece of legislation. Floor amendments and a conference to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA are the next steps for this bill in the legislative process.

Special Update – Government Shutdown Averted

Once again, the annual budget-deadline debacle has played out in Congress. On Thursday, September 30, the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the government through December 3.

Rather than funding the government on time, members of Congress have used appropriations, or the lack thereof, to highlight their agendas. As a result, Continuing Resolutions (CR's) to temporarily fund the government have become one of their political tools of choice. The last time our country started a fiscal year with a fully funded government – was FY 1997. Not good.

MOAA has stressed the consequences of these CR's many times: They prevent new program starts and force DoD and the VA to continue old programs that need to be reviewed or replaced. All this makes it impossible for military planners to predict their budget and plan accordingly – a recipe for negative impacts to readiness.



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Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



Cheap Lodging for Military Families

From vacations to cross-country trips to visit friends and relatives, military families are frequently on the move. That's why we're always on the lookout for cheap places to stay during those times when we're not at home. Here are some great deals for military families to find cheap lodging on the go:

Installation Lodging

Most military installations offer temporary, space-available lodging for low prices, including Navy Lodges, Air Force Inns, Army Lodging, Inns of the Corps. These facilities are typically geared toward service members traveling on orders or families who are moving to new duty stations. Reservation policies vary between service branches and facilities so call ahead for more information.

Armed Forces Recreation Centers (AFRCs)

Thinking about organizing a vacation? Headed overseas and wondering where you can stay while exploring a new country? Check into AFRCs.

Armed Forces Recreation Centers are Joint Service Facilities operated by the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs. These affordable full-service resort hotels are located at vacation destinations throughout the world, and they're available to service members and their families. Room rates are based on rank, pay grade, duty status, room size, and/or room location. Try to make your reservations well in advance because the facilities tend to fill up quickly.

Where exactly are these AFRCs located?

Probably the best known AFRC is the Shades of Green Resort, which is in Orlando, Florida within Walt Disney World. Not only do you get affordable prices on room rates, but you can also get discounted tickets for Disney World venues.

The other AFRCs include the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, Korea, and the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Another facility, run by the Navy, is the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

Military Campgrounds

Are you looking for more of an outdoor adventure for your overnight needs? Some military installations have cottages, cabins, and townhomes that can be used for vacation rentals. A number of bases even have military campgrounds and RV parks that provide things like BBQ areas, laundry and play areas for the kids.

Military Discounts at Hotels

For those times when your travels take you nowhere near a military installation, plan your overnight stay at hotels that offer military discounts. Many hotels offer military rates, including:

- Best Western
- Choice Hotels
- Embassy Suites
- Hampton Inns
- Hawthorn Suites
- Hilton Hotels and Resorts
- InterContinental Hotels Group
- La Quinta
- Marriott
- Motel 6
- Red Lion Hotels
- Red Roof

But even if you find a hotel that doesn't advertise a military discount, make sure to ask for one. You never know. That cute little bed and breakfast you stumbled upon might give you a discount just for asking.

Our AZ Chapter MOAA joined Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce to remember 9/11 with the Air Force Academy/ Naval Academy game at Famous Daves in Scottsdale. The Air Force Academy won the game.





OCTOBER 23, 2021 MOAA BBQ PICNIC

AZ Valley Trio

With special guest Linda Parker Boyd

This trio has been performing separately for over 40 years as soloists, with the OK Chorale and with other bands, and now they're together for the first time. Linda Parker Boyd has been singing since age 5 and is nationally acclaimed. She is a church soprano soloist for 31 years.



RSVP or CHECK must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19th. \$30 per person. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA. Mail to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85020. (602)943-0028
Email: charles@bitner36.com

**Annual MOAA Arizona
Chapter BBQ/Picnic**

11AM-2PM

**Bring a prospective
member**



McCormick-Stillman

Railroad Park

Indian Bend &

Scottsdale Roads

Aste Ramada

**map on
following page**

Below is a map of the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. If you can park at the northwest corner, you will find a path to the Aste Ramada (circled in blue) at the top of the map. We will be setting up at around 10 am and the "Meet and Greet" begins at 11 am. Famous Dave's BBQ will be served at Noon.



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OCTOBER 23, 2021 PICNIC RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$30.00/person) for the October PICNIC payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Please mail check to arrive by **10/19/2021** 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 **October 19, 2021 @ 4pm** Cancellations after **October 19, 2021 after 4 pm** will be charged and not refunded.



The final results of our
“Never Forget” Auction

By

Jack Farley and Tom Sheets

We received 209 bids on 67 of the 77 auction items.

Total revenue raised was \$6,225--103% of goal!

Depending on how many winners volunteered to pay the DoJiggy fee, AZMOAA, SWVF, and SWVCC will all receive about \$2,000 in net proceeds.

Thanks to all who obtained or donated auction items.

Thanks to all who bid.

Thanks to all who helped publicize the auction.

A great Team effort that accomplished our stated goal--and produced \$2,000 that we can put to good use supporting Veterans and their families.

October 23, 2021 PICNIC News

DATE: October 23, 2021

11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour

11:45 am - 2pm Lunch

PLACE: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

7301 E Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

COST: \$30 Per Person

Reservation by 4 PM 10/19/2021

DRESS: Picnic or Western Wear

MENU: Famous Dave's BBQ

ENTERTAINMENT: Our Programs Chair, Bruce Kosaveach, will join his friends, Tony Pistilli and Jud Schandel, as the AZ VALLEY TRIO. Linda Parker Boyd, our Chapter Secretary's wife, will also sing!



Toys for Tots

The Toys for Tots campaign in Arizona kicks off October 1. Details have not been published as of today, September 30. We expect the details in early October. At this time, Toys for Tots is only accepting monetary donations but we are hoping to become a drop-off location for toy donations at our November meeting as we have done in years past up to November 2019. Because of COVID last year, only monetary donations were accepted.

2021 Southwest Veterans Foundation

Please Save The Date for the 6th Annual

PATRIOTS BALL

Desert Heroes

A Salute to Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans



October 16th. 2021

Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort

**1111 North 7th. Street,
Phoenix, Arizona 85020**

5:30pm - 11:00pm

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A Salute to Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans



6th Annual Patriots Ball Registration Form

On behalf of the Southwest Veterans Foundation and Chamber of Commerce, we cordially invite you to join us for the 6th Annual Patriots Ball at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort – Saturday, October 16, 2021.

The Southwest Veterans Foundation and Chamber of Commerce Patriots Ball brings together veterans and patriot owned businesses, veterans support groups, and business and civic leaders to celebrate our brave veterans. Event proceeds fund chamber member programs, scholarships and veterans support programs in the Phoenix area.

Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021

Time: 5:30 PM – 11:00 PM

Location: Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort

Address: 11111 N. 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Attire: Cocktail Attire/Uniforms
Forma Wear Optional

Program: 5:30 PM – Reception and Silent Auction
7:30 PM - Dinner

Tickets: \$125.00 for Members - \$150.00 for Non-Members

of Attendees: _____ @ \$125.00/\$150.00 ea. = \$ _____

Attendees Names: _____

Additional Special Seating or Meal Requirements: _____

Billing Information Payment Information

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone/Mobile: (_____) _____
Email: _____

Payment Type: Credit Card Check#: _____
Cardholders Name: _____
Credit Card #: _____
Card Type: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Zip Code: _____

Please mail registration form with payment to:
Southwest Veterans Foundation
3820 W. Happy Valley Rd., Suite 141-455,
Glendale, AZ 85310

Male checks payable to Southwest Veterans Foundation
If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Patti Pyle at 602 236-8192 or Email: Patti.Pyle@srpnet.com

The Southwest Veterans Foundation and Chamber of Commerce appreciate your support of our veterans owned businesses and veterans support initiatives.

We are planning on having a great night and look forward to seeing you there!

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 _____

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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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