



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter

The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



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

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President's Perspective by Pete Berger



The Holiday Season is upon us! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are anticipating this Holiday Season with Joy and Charity! This is the first Holiday Season in decades during which we have not had our fellow military personnel engaged in large scale combat operations. While we always want to be prepared for War to defend our nation, we can celebrate Peace and pray that world leaders can work cooperatively to maintain this Peace!

NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

Thank you to all who brought in toys for our Toys for Tots campaign. We filled the box that Lee and Janet Lange supplied. If you were not able to bring a toy you may still contribute by sending in a check to the Toys for Tots donation center. Thanks to Bruce Kosaveach for arranging a very interesting and entertaining presentation at our November Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We got a little misty-eyed listening to the music of the WWII era, remembering the sacrifices made by the Veterans and those at home during that National Emergency. It was so informative to have the Rosie the Riveter daughter (Rosebud) contribute to the presentation!

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FEBRUARY 23, 1929

US ARMY
JUNE 14 1775

US NAVY
OCT 13 1775

US MARINE CORPS
NOV 10, 1775

US COAST GUARD
AUG 14 1790

US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
JAN 4 1889

US AIR FORCE
SEP 18 1947

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
OCT 3 1970

US SPACE FORCE
DEC 20 2019

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Bob Fiegl,
AZ Chapter Membership Chair
FieglR869@gmail.com

My fellow AZ Chapter MOAA members, I wish you a wonderful Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year! Many of us have experienced a wide range of unwanted issues in our personal lives during 2020 and 2021, so let's celebrate the arrival of 2022 with great enthusiasm!

If you make New Year's resolutions and try to keep them, I would like to suggest this resolution: Write it on a small piece of paper and place it on your refrigerator or other prominent place in your home, like on your bathroom mirror (or your underwear drawer?) On that paper, write the following: **Recruit one person to join our MOAA chapter this year.** That is the easy part, I know. The challenging part is fulfilling that resolution but I have faith in you that you can do it! Solicit your friends who are eligible for membership, those who are officers in the uniformed services. Our membership has been averaging 150 people over the past two years. Granted, there are other good MOAA chapters in the metro Phoenix area, but our metro area has about five million residents! We should be able to attract more than 150 to join our chapter and I believe we can do it, with your help. So, please,

think about your friends, neighbors, social organizations and church acquaintances and put on your best recruiting/marketing hat and have a good talk with them about our chapter, the fun we have, our community service and the benefits MOAA membership offers. We need your help! Thank you!

I attended MOAA's southwest region Chapter Leader's conference in San Diego November 19th and 20th where MOAA's National staff presented a host of briefings on important initiatives. I have been a Life Member of MOAA for years and yet I learned new, pertinent things, which are important matters for all of us who have served and especially for those of us who retired from a branch of our nation's military.

One key area MOAA National helps with is new surviving spouses. Surviving spouses of Life and Premium (annual renewal) members can receive a great deal of assistance from MOAA when a member's spouse passes. Look for a dedicated presentation on this subject early next year during one of our monthly chapter luncheons.

The last request I have today: Please go to MOAA.org, log in and review your account profile for accuracy/currency? If you have not done that in recent years, you may have had changes, such as your address, email address or telephone number. Please also make the proper selection concerning your permission to receive electronic correspondence from MOAA.

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Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership DUES RENEWAL FORM

2022 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2022.

If you 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** \$ _____ Dues for **2022** \$ _____

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

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

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



The SWVCC-AZMOAA Annual Army-Navy Game Party



Saturday December 11, 2021

Famous 48

**8989 N Scottsdale Rd #608, Scottsdale, AZ
Tailgate Party (Inside) @ 12:00; Kickoff @ 1:00**

Football Party will include:

- Individual luncheon orders
- "Football Pool" \$5 a square; four \$50 payouts for each board of 100 squares
- Goal is to sell four boards (\$800 in payouts)
- Raffle tickets for a prize after each quarter and halftime
- Spirited interservice rivalry
- Camaraderie we've missed during the COVID pandemic

**Get your squares *now* at <https://business.swvcc.org/store>, at any SWVCC event, or by calling 602.677.2961/760.213.3705
(Do not have to be present to win)**

On behalf of the Veterans and their families who will ultimately benefit from your generosity, WE THANK YOU!

President’s Perspective Continued from Page 1

Just a reminder for those of you who would like to attend:

**PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2021 – 10:55 A.M.**

**WESLEY BOLIN PLAZA
Between 16th Avenue & 17th Avenue and
Washington & Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona**

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY/
LUNCHEON**

Saturday 18 December is the FUN Holiday Party and Chinese Gift Auction! If you choose to bring an auction gift, you receive a ticket to find the gift of your choice. A couple can bring two gifts and receive two tickets, if desired. Gifts should be purchased at a price around \$20-\$25. Adult beverages, Chocolates, and holiday consumables are some gifts that are desirable. The Reservation Form is below and there is more information on Page 6.

In the Spirit of this Holiday season, I would like to invite our membership, especially our newer members, to volunteer as assistants or committee members in those areas that have chapter-wide responsibilities and impact. In so doing you will increase your participation in our Chapter and directly help to accomplish its mission. It is a good way to enhance friendships

and increase your personal satisfaction with your membership in our Chapter.

This is my last President’s Perspective. I assumed the office suddenly when Mike Rogers was struck ill with West Nile Virus so early into his term in office

I want you to know that it has been an honor to serve you. Additionally, your Board members are responsible for our successes these past two and one-half years which have been so impacted by COVID. Each one of them went above and beyond their call to duty. I am grateful beyond words for their dedication.

Your new 2022 President, Tom Sheets, and his team are all outstanding! Our Chapter is in excellent hands as we continue to move forward in our mission to help past, current and future Veterans. I ask that you give them your full support and cooperation.

I also want to acknowledge and recognize the hard work that was done by those who held the Officer and Board positions before us. They established and evolved a framework that has facilitated our Chapter growing in the wonderful way it has. Thank you and JOB WELL DONE!

God bless You, our Chapter and our Great Nation.

Peter Berger

DECEMBER 18, 2021 HOLIDAY PARTY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$30.00/person) for the December 18 Membership Luncheon Meeting payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by **12/14/2021** to: **Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020**, or contact: **Charles@Bitner36.com, 602-943-0028**. Credit cards will not be accepted.

Member reservations or call-ins **WILL NOT** be accepted after **December 14, 2021 @ 4pm**

Cancellations after December 14, 2021 after 4 pm will be charged and not refunded.

Membership Continued from Page 2

Please, do not lock out your MOAA National communications by placing them on your 'Do Not Call' list. They send important information, mostly asking for your support with furthering their legislative advocacy initiatives, such as **pay and allowances, TRICARE medical, the Widow's Tax revision, burial in national cemeteries, etc.** There are about 350,000 MOAA National members and together, we can be a powerful influential force. This is about non-partisan issues that affect us and our spouses personally. There are prominent issues on which MOAA National is always working in our behalf. MOAA is a superb voice in Washington for us! Please make sure MOAA can contact you!

Go Navy – Beat Army!

Bob Fiegl

DECEMBER 18 Holiday Party

DATE: December 18, 2021
11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
11:45 am - 2pm Lunch

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

COST: \$30 Per Person
Reservation by 4 PM 12/14/2021

DRESS: Holiday Attire

MENU: Roast Turkey Breast, Sage Stuffing & Whipped Potatoes with Turkey Gravy
McCormick Signature Salad
Apple Pie

PROGRAM: Bring a WRAPPED Christmas Gift if you wish to participate in the "Chinese Gift Auction."

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December 18, 2021



'Tis the Season!!



Annual AZ Chapter MOAA Holiday Party and "Chinese Auction" gift exchange

- If you are attending the Christmas Party and wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring one gift per family.
- Gifts should be NEW and in the **\$20-\$25** range and be **wrapped** or in giftbags or gift boxes.
- Suggestion: focus on things we all enjoy during the holidays - adult beverages (scotch, vodka, wine), Cookies, Godiva Chocolates, handy gadgets, etc.
- Members with a gift should check in on arrival and receive a ticket allowing them to take part in the gift exchange. That ticket number will be called at random for your turn to select a gift from the gift table, and then, as we have in the past, allow gift swaps. (Did I mention bringing scotch?)

There may not be a 50/50 raffle, but year-end donations to the general or scholarship fund will be gladly accepted. Both are IRS-approved non-profit corporations and donations are **tax deductible.**

McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale
85258

RESERVATIONS must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 14th

\$30 per person includes a tasty turkey luncheon.

Please make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA

Send to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

Or contact Charlie at (602) 943-0028



Federal Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

NDAAs Update: It's Time to Contact Your Senators This Week – Don't Delay

Senators returned this week from the Thanksgiving holiday and are taking up their version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in floor action. This might be the last window to make your voice heard on MOAA's priority issues. With competing legislative priorities and the year-end budget crunch, it's unclear how much time will be left for NDAA deliberation. MOAA needs your help now more than ever to get these issues onto your senator's to-do list.

Here's why it matters: The House-passed NDAA (H.R. 4350) includes many MOAA-backed provisions for the military community likely to carry over into the Senate version. But other items on MOAA's priority list didn't make the House NDAA, and the only chance for them to be included in the defense bill, is for the items to be part of the Senate version and be included in the final bill through the joint conference committee.

Below are details on four such provisions. Click the links to send a message to your legislator, but also consider a phone call via MOAA's dedicated congressional hotline, (866) 272-6622, which can connect you directly to your senators.

Reversing Planned Eligibility Changes at Arlington National Cemetery.

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=511221>

MOAA members have been among the thousands of veterans and others who've registered major concerns with the flawed changes proposed to Arlington National Cemetery eligibility that would force many military retirees to change long-held burial plans. A Senate amendment (SA 4297) would require a

a joint DoD/VA report on the issue and prohibit any eligibility changes until the report's filing – a critical first step to a better solution for Arlington's space issues and for finding the next national cemetery.

Fixing the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?1&engagementId=511394>

MOAA has long advocated for this much-needed improvement – one that would bring TRICARE in line with commercial plans and save military families thousands of dollars in health care costs for dependent children up to age 26. The current TRICARE Young Adult Program saw yet another significant premium hike for 2022 and shouldn't be viewed as a viable alternative. A Senate NDAA amendment has made significant progress thanks to MOAA-backed support for similar legislation and recent media reports on the issue.

Helping Military Survivors

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=511506>

MOAA's work on behalf of surviving spouses has been among its greatest recent legislative successes. The fix included in the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act – which has been introduced as a Senate NDAA amendment – allows survivors to keep the full amount of their spouse's final retirement check, making a significant difference in the days and weeks after a loss.

Addressing Concurrent Receipt

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=510849>

MOAA's support for the Major Richard Star Act dates to the bill's inception, but budget concerns prevented the House from including the text of the act in the NDAA via the amendment process. However, Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) plan to

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Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



2022 Federal Employee Dental and Vision Plan (FEDVIP) Open Season

This year's Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) open season runs from November 8 to December 13, 2021. This benefit is available to federal employees including active duty and retired military members and their families. The program is sponsored by the federal government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and offers multiple dental and vision plans.

Every current FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan holder should take a few minutes to check whether the scheduled 2022 pricing for your current plan provider continues to meet your family's dental and/or vision needs. When you log into your account you will see 2021 and 2022 prices for your plans. If you are comfortable with your plan's scheduled premium increase (or decrease, in some cases), then do nothing – your plan will roll over under new premium pricing beginning January 1, 2022.

If you are considering signing up for the first time for dental and/or vision insurance under this government sponsored program,

go to www.benefeds.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.

VA expands Covid-19

<https://www.wowt.com/2021/11/21/va-expands-covid-vaccines-spouses-caregivers/>

Federal Legislative Update Continued from Page 6

submit a Senate amendment with similar language, and while final NDAA inclusion faces several hurdles, all of your representatives need to hear from you about the need to end the unfair offset of military retired pay with disability compensation for so many ill and injured veterans. MOAA's incremental approach to this issue will continue moving forward in coming years - help MOAA continue its progress.

Congress is facing a daunting agenda, which includes addressing several time-sensitive crises in the coming weeks: the Dec. 3 continuing resolution deadline, dealing with the debt ceiling prior to Dec. 15, and the president's Build Back Better Act. It is difficult to predict how legislators will prioritize these legislative issues relative to the FY 2022 NDAA – **hearing from their constituents could make all the difference.**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our 2022 Slate of Officers and

Board of Directors were approved as follows:

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Tom Sheets
1st VICE PRESIDENT Bob Fiegl
2nd VICE PRESIDENT Jack Farley
SECRETARY Dave Boyd
TREASURER Charlie Bitner – Need to Find
Assistant Treasurer

DIRECTORS

PAST PRESIDENT Pete Berger
DIRECTOR Ron Bright
DIRECTOR Jim Cullison
DIRECTOR Bruce Kosaveach
DIRECTOR Janet Lange
DIRECTOR Lee Lange



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CHINESE AUCTION (HOLIDAY GIFT) RULES

1. Check in with the Treasurer at the front table and show him your gift for the Exchange. You will receive one ticket per gift to participate in the Exchange
2. After lunch, we will briefly describe the rules. There will be a copy of rules at each table as well.
3. The auction begins with a random drawing of the first ticket. The winning ticket holder then selects a gift from the table and unwraps it for all to see.
4. Another ticket is then drawn and the winner of that ticket has 2 choices - (1) "steal" the previous winner's gift or (2) choose a new gift from the table, unwrap it and show everyone.
5. If a gift is taken, the loser of that gift gets to choose a new gift from the table.
6. When a gift has been "stolen" TWICE, it is frozen and cannot be "stolen" by anyone else.
7. A gift may not be "stolen" back from the person who just took it.
8. All unwrapped gifts must remain visible for all to see or take.
9. There is only one gift per person - no exceptions.
10. When all gifts are gone, the person drawing the first ticket gets a chance to "steal" a gift, or keep theirs.

The auction ends when all the gifts are opened or when the host gets tired and quits.

NOW MIGHT BE THE TIME TO CONSIDER LIFE MEMBERSHIP WITH MOAA-NATIONAL

WITH LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMES OUTSTANDING BENEFITS:

- 1) Best economic decision**
- 2) Access to ALL of MOAA's member benefits**
- 3) Converts to surviving spouse for life**
- 4) Never have to write another renewal check***

Effective 1 January 2022, National dues will be increased as follows:

Premium Member (Annual Pay): 1 Year, \$59 (up from \$48, a 23% jump!)
2 Years, \$100 (up from \$82)
3 Years, \$132 (up from \$108)

Life Membership will also be increasing, amount TBD and announced soon. As you know, the amount is based on actuarial tables (life expectancy) and annual dues.

Basic Membership: free but offers only minimum benefits.

If you are a Premium Member who has been considering upgrading to Life or if you are a Basic Member considering upgrading to Premium or Life, now is the time to do so.

Premium Members preferring to remain annual pay: It is suggested you renew now, before the end of 2021, to take advantage of the old rates and perhaps doing so for more than one year (2, 3?). Same suggestion for Basic Members upgrading to Premium.

If you are making the move to Life Membership, note that MOAA offers a 10% discount and the dues easily can be paid off monthly on a credit card.**

For "Prospective Members," whether already members of MOAA-National or not, this information will be of interest to you as well.

**** For assistance with the 10% discount, here are two POCs:**

- Col Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret), Senior Director, Transition and Member Services, briana@moaa.org, (703) 838-8104**
- Col Peter Kloeber, USAF (Ret), President, AZ Council of Chapters, pkloeber@earthlink.net, (928) 525-0585**

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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★


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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 Vacant	PROGRAMS CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN 602-501-9876
SECRETARY Maj David Boyd, USAF 202-617-0337	ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	SCHOLARSHIPS VACANT
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
DIRECTORS: LTCOL Ron Bright, USA; Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF; CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN; Janet Lange, USMC Spouse	LEGISLATION Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	WEBMASTER Carl Ulbrich Jireh Communications
	MEMBERSHIP CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN 850-207-9845	

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

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
41122 N. Majesty Way
Anthem, AZ 85086



azmoaa.org



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