



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter

The Military Officer's Association of America



The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250

FEBRUARY 2022

CHARTERED Oct 1956

65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

JANET LANGE, EDITOR

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President's Perspective by Tom Sheets



The chapter kicked off 2022 with a visit from our National Headquarters at January's luncheon meeting. Please see Bruce Kosaveach's article for additional details. Unfortunately, Lisa and I were not able to join you due to COVID protocols. We both had only minor symptoms and are now back in action. Thank you to everyone who checked in with us and wished us well.

I am pleased to report that we have had a flurry of activity in our recruiting efforts, with several new members joining the chapter and several more pending. Please see Bob Fiegl's update. I would like to reiterate Bob's challenge to us at our Holiday Party - that every chapter member try to recruit one new member during 2022. The best way to achieve this is to invite prospective members to one of our monthly luncheons. Come with them to make sure they get there!

Over the last year, President Pete Berger, has updated you on the work of our Corporate Governance Committee. The driving factor for our efforts is the separate legal organization status of our Chapter and the Scholarship Fund. Historically, we had referred to the Scholarship Fund as a "Committee." To be sure, the Scholarship Fund is a separately registered 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization and should have its own board of directors, corporate governance and fiduciary responsibilities.

Continued on Page 3



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

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
1st Vice President and
Membership Chair

February is here: **Black History Month**, **Valentine's Day February 14**, our **AZ Chapter Luncheon/Membership meeting February 19** and **President's Day February 21**.

We are also now in tax season. Last year a revision to the Arizona state tax law exempted military retirement pay from taxable state income. Talk with your professional tax preparer about the changes and how they may affect your tax situation before filing this year. You may want to review your tax withholding amount, too. What does this have to do with MOAA membership, you ask? This quest began twenty years ago and a hard-fought initiative with our Arizona MOAA Council leaders and our Chapter leaders active in lobbying for this change with state legislators. Governor Doug Ducey helped get this across the finish line last year and made it retroactive to 1/1/21. The relatively small amount you pay for MOAA membership and your annual chapter dues has garnered a lifetime of valuable savings for Arizona military retirees! This is a wonderful return on investment for us!

Thank you for your recruiting efforts which have produced an uptick of new members most

of whom were recruited by "word of mouth" and we are now a chapter of 160 members! Please remember to greet our new members and introduce yourselves, engaging them in conversation during the social hour at our chapter luncheon/meetings the third Saturday each month at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. We want them feel to feel welcome. We all know how awkward it is when we're the "new" members of a group. We are reserving tables near the front for those attending their first member meeting with us where they will be seated with the chapter's leaders and mentors. A *Welcome to New Members* can be found on Page 3.

Until next month's column, I wish you a healthy, fun-filled time! If you have membership related questions or you learn of potential new members, please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Saturday, February 19th luncheon member meeting.

Warm regards,
Bob Fiegl

PS: **Annual chapter dues are due in January.** Please keep your membership status current.

You may renew your membership by mailing with the form below or at this link:

<https://www.azmoaa.org/membership/renew-your-membership/>



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: _____

President’s Perspective Continued from Page 1

We have taken the legal and administrative steps to put all that in place. The Scholarship Fund will continue to carry out its mission as you know it. Ron Bright is the President of its Board of Directors.

At the same time, many members have expressed a desire for our Chapter to support Veterans who have already served and their families—especially those in need. Since that was not possible under the role and restrictions of the Scholarship Fund, we have initiated additional fundraising activities to raise money for the Chapter so we can support Veteran needs in our communities. They have included our raffles, online auctions, and events such as the service academy football game parties. Thanks to your support, we now have a Chapter bank balance of approximately \$10,000. ***I want to emphasize that these efforts will not negatively affect the Scholarship Fund.*** It has a current balance of over \$22,000—enough to fund three years of scholarships at our traditional levels. When needed, we will target fundraising efforts towards the Scholarship Fund.

The Board of Directors wants to hear from you about what types of Veteran needs and causes you would like our Chapter to support. Please see the article on Page 9 and let us know what you think.

We look forward to seeing you at the February 19th Luncheon Meeting. Please stay safe as we navigate the challenges of the Omicron virus.

Wishing you, your families and our Chapter a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2022.

Tom Sheets
AZ Chapter MOAA President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ms Sandra Fox,
Surviving Spouse of
LtCol Clarence Fox USAF

LTC Allan Jeska, USA (Ret)

Capt Paul G Knouse, USMC (Fmr)
and his wife, Karen

Capt Stephen MacDonald, USAF (Fmr)

LtCol Stephen J Miller, USAF (Ret)
and his wife, Jacqueline

LT Howard Monheit, USN (Fmr)
and Cari Lefkow

LTC Jeff Reback, USA (Ret)

LtCol Ronald B Schuh, USAF (Ret)
and his wife, Rosemary

February 19 Member Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$30.00/person) for the February 19 Member Luncheon Meeting payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by February 15, 2022 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
February 15, 2022 @ 4pm

Cancellations after February 15, 2022 at 4 pm will be charged and not refunded.



February 19th, 2022

“How to Protect Yourself and Your Home from Crime”

Alessandra Sachs B1649
Crime Prevention Police Aide



Alessandra Sachs has been working at the Scottsdale Police Department for the past 3 years. She started out on patrol and now works in the Crime Prevention Unit at District 3.

Prior to joining SPD, she worked for the Jewish Community Center as the Sports and Camp Director for 11 years and at Playworks as a Program Manager for 3.5 years.

Alessandra was also part of the Brazilian Women’s Soccer team for 11 years. She is a 2004 Olympic silver medalist, a 2007 Pan American gold medalist and was inducted to the Brazilian Football “Hall of Fame” in 2005 for her work on women’s sports in Brazil.

Alessandra Sachs and her partner at the Scottsdale PD Brian Hartman will be presenting the most prevalent crimes being committed in Scottsdale and ways to protect yourself.

Please be sure to attend!!



February 19th, 2022

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Luncheon \$30 – Please RSVP by February 15th with check to Charlie Bitner

134 E . Northview Ave. Phoenix 85020

by email: Charles@bitner36.com

Or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028

February 19 Luncheon/Meeting

- DATE:** February 19, 2022
11:00-11:45 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
11:45 am-12:00 pm Pledge, Invocation, Announcements
12:00-2:00pm Lunch and Program
- PLACE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
- COST:** \$30 Per Person
Reservations by 4 PM 2/15/2022
- DRESS:** Business Casual
- MENU:** Chicken Cordon Bleu & Herbed Rice Pilaf with Caper Beurre Blanc,
McCormick Signature Salad, Cherry Pie
- PROGRAM:** How to Protect Yourself and Home from Crime

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Federal Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

A Year Without a Budget Would Cost DoD \$24 Billion - Hits Troops Hardest

The following is an extract from a piece written by MOAA’s Mark Belinsky. At a January 12 hearing on Capitol Hill, DoD’s top financial official joined service chiefs to reiterate to Congress what MOAA has been stressing for years — reliance on **continuing resolutions (CRs)** to fund the nation’s defense remains a wasteful strategy that unfairly disrupts the lives of servicemembers and their families.

Last month in the Sentinel, we reported the President’s signing of the NDAA. That’s good news but with no budget to fund it, the NDAA essentially goes on hold. The current CR will expire February 18, and if Congress cannot come to an agreement at the negotiating table, a year-long CR could be their misguided solution.

If a yearlong CR comes to pass, the true cost would be close to \$24 billion – triple the expected \$8 billion shortfall between the DoD budget request and what the CR would provide. Reasons why include:

- Misaligned funds, such as \$3 billion earmarked for Afghanistan operations that would be unavailable for other uses.
- More than 100 “new start” military construction projects, costing a combined \$5 billion, that can’t be started under a CR.
- Procurement and research projects stalled by costs not covered by the CR, or new programs unable to be launched under a CR.

DoD military personnel accounts would be funded at \$5 billion below requested levels in a yearlong CR, yet DoD would still have to absorb the cost of the pay raise and statutory housing and subsistence increases for the troops. Finding the money means delayed accessions and suspended PCS moves, among other budgetary maneuvers damaging to both morale and readiness.

A consistent theme from DoD and service officials is that a prolonged CR hurts retention and breaks trust with military families.

A reduction in retention bonuses, a halt to PCS moves that impact spousal employment and housing, and disruption of training schedules are all negative impacts to the force.

Bottom Line

We need our elected representatives to do their job and pass a budget that funds the government for the rest of FY 2022, including the all-important defense budget. Using the CR for stop-gap funding is wasteful and costs more than the original budget request. Urge your congressional representative and our Arizona senators to pass a budget now.

Use the link below to see a suggested message along with points in this column. Calls to Congress will **tell them someone cares what they are doing.**

CALL YOUR LAWMAKERS:

[Ask Congress to Pass a Budget](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/a-year-without-a-budget-would-cost-dod-$24-billion.-ask-your-lawmaker-to-act/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFH+RM+1+ERet+L+NC#action)

[https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/a-year-without-a-budget-would-cost-dod-\\$24-billion.-ask-your-lawmaker-to-act/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFH+RM+1+ERet+L+NC#action](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/a-year-without-a-budget-would-cost-dod-$24-billion.-ask-your-lawmaker-to-act/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFH+RM+1+ERet+L+NC#action)

Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



The 2021 Tax Season is Here

Filing your federal taxes using the Standard Deduction on your 2021 return?

The federal CARES Act provides increased tax incentives for charitable giving. Even if you take the standard deduction, which has become more common after the recent tax cuts, the law allows you to make a cash donation (check or credit card) in 2021 to a non-profit charity up to \$300 per tax return and deduct it against your tax return. If you donate up to \$300 in cash to a qualified non-profit, your adjusted gross income will be reduced by \$300 while supporting your favorite charity.

Continued on Page 7



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Personal Affairs Continued from Page 6

Joint filers (who aren't itemizing) will be allowed to take an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600 in cash contributions to charity this year. Look over your charitable contributions made in 2021 to see if you qualify.

Additional information can be found in the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) link or talk to your tax advisor.

Don't Forget to Claim New Arizona Tax Exemption

In 2021, Arizona passed the long sought-after full state tax exemption on military retired pay. Despite several groups challenging Governor Ducey's tax cuts, the tax exemption on military retired pay is still intact. Be sure to ask your tax advisor to claim this exemption for 2021 – the exemption is retroactive to January 1, 2021. It's a big deal if you are retired military and it could result in a substantial amount back in your pocket. Don't forget to tell DFAS to stop your state tax deductions on your service retired pay.

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

First Thursday of each month

February 3, 2022

American Legion Post 44
7145 E 2nd Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Member Luncheon/Meetings

Third Saturday of each month

February 19, 2022

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

Reservations Required



**January 15, 2022 Luncheon Meeting
"National MOAA Update"**

**CAPT Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret)
Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs
and
LtGen John F. Regni USAF (Ret)**

The Arizona MOAA Chapter was fortunate to have CAPT Frank Michael USN (Ret) and Lt. Gen. John F. Regni USAF (Ret) speak to us at our January luncheon meeting. CAPT Michael is the Program Director for Council and Chapter Affairs at MOAA National and Lt. Gen. Regni sits on MOAA's Board of Directors. General Regni was also the former Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.

CAPT Michael presented an update on council and chapter affairs nationally including:

MOAA Store (online) which should be up and running again by February.

Data management change nationally to a system called Fontiva.

The 2022 major award cycle for chapters and councils.

Lt. Gen. Regni presented the Advocacy in Action program which allows MOAA members to get involved in active federal legislative campaigns.

Over 350,000 MOAA members nationally with only 40,000 as chapter members. Strong push to increase chapter membership and involvement.

National monthly roundtable discussions on major MOAA topics that chapters can utilize for improvement on recruitment, retention, awards, transition services, etc.

Related to the above, CAPT Michael gave us ideas on available recruiting tools and resources.

The presentation was well received by our members, and CAPT Michael is very supportive of our efforts in attaining our five-star Levels of Excellence status, Harris Communications Awards, and this year's Steve Strobbridge Award (Colonel Lee Lange). He was especially complimentary of our chapter's efforts to *sustain* these award levels.



CAPT Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret)



LtGen John F. Regni USAF (Ret)

Veteran Support Survey

Over the last two years, our chapter has increased its fundraising activities to benefit the General Fund of the chapter. These activities have included raffles, auctions and special events such as securing the MOAA Foundation grants for community veteran projects, service academy and Super Bowl football pools/parties. (By the way, we have an ongoing Super Bowl fundraising pool in progress. See Page)

It is important to note that these fundraising events have NOT affected our Scholarship Fund as the funds we raise for veteran projects go directly into our General Fund. The Scholarship Fund currently has a balance of over \$22,000, enough to fund three years of scholarships. We fully anticipate the Scholarship Fund being a future recipient of our donations.

One of the reasons for increasing this fundraising is to give our chapter the resources to support the continuing critical needs of Veterans and their families in our communities — and the needs are many. For example, while the Veterans Administration recently reported the first drop in the number and the rate of Veteran suicides, that good news does not apply to Arizona. They both increase in Arizona and we now have the 5th highest Veteran suicide rate in the nation. While we have provided a very limited amount of support to Veterans and Veteran organizations in the past, many members have expressed a desire to do more. As a result of our efforts and your support, we now have nearly \$10,000 in our Chapter General Fund.

Your Board of Directors would like to get member feedback on what types of Veteran needs you would like to support. Potential areas of support include:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Education | Mental health issues |
| Employment | Native American Veterans |
| Food insecurity | Suicide prevention |
| Homelessness | Other _____ |

Please tell us the top two areas of Veteran needs you would like to support. You can do this by emailing Tom Sheets tsheets@stonewall-group.com or you may call/text Tom at 760.213.3705, or by filling out a survey form we will have at the February luncheon.

Finally, if you would like to serve on a Committee to manage this program, please let me know.



Who Can Join MOAA?

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

Space Force

National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

Public Health Services

the National Guard
or other Reserve Components
of those services

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

Scholarship Fund Donations as of January 2022:

Sue Gilbertson \$ 50

John Ady \$200

Super Bowl LVI Fundraiser

It's February and that means the Super Bowl is less than two weeks away! Our Chapter is again partnering with the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce (SWVCC) to hold a Super Bowl Pool to raise money to support our respective Veteran programs. This will **NOT** include an in-person event. Here are the details:



***** Game Pool *****

*To benefit the Veteran programs & operations of
the SWVCC and the AZMOAA*

Sunday February 13, 2022 4:30 PM

\$5.00 a Square—100 Squares per Board

For every 100 squares sold, there will be a \$50 payout
at the end of each quarter based on the score.

Squares will be randomly assigned when purchased and the row and column numbers will
be randomly drawn after all squares are sold and filled in.

Get your squares at <https://business.swvcc.org/store/super-bowl-lvi-squares>
or by calling Tom Sheets at 602.677.2961/760.213.3705

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

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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We'll be There.**

★


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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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