



The Sentinel



Arizona's First Chapter

The Arizona Chapter, 4333 W. Echo Lane, Glendale, Arizona 85502

JANUARY 2007 CHARTERED OCTOBER 22, 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: Terry Tassin

DUES!! DUES!! DUES!! DUES!! DUES!!

The push is on for you to renew your membership in the Arizona Chapter of MOAA. Use the form on page 5



President's Message

I will start by quoting MOAA's Mission as follows: "Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors".

As we look back over this past year, I believe that the Arizona Chapter strongly supported this mission. I believe that our support of the ARNG Family Assistance Fund is part of supporting the mission. As we look forward to next year, I hope that we can keep this mission in mind and hopefully provide even more support.

It will be Terry Tassin as our new president who will lead us in these efforts. I hope that you will all resolve to provide him the same or even a greater level of support than you provided me over this past two years.

I wish you a Happy New Year and hope to see you and work with you during 2007.

--Daniel Conway

Chapter Positions Available

Chapter Secretary - duties presently being carried out by the President Elect. I really need some help here folks.

Editor for Arizona Chapter MOAA monthly (less July/Aug) newsletter - *The Sentinel*. Candidate should have access to a computer, and be willing to contribute a few hours each month to newsletter preparation, printing, and mailing. Need more information - contact Terry Tassin at 623-931-1546 or email: terrytassin@cox.net.

From the President Elect

Thank you President Dan Conway for all of the hard work that you have done over the past two years culminating in the very successful 50th Anniversary celebration. To the Chapter members I offer my thanks for your confidence in electing me president for this coming year. Fortunately, almost all of our board of directors and committee chairpersons from 2006 have agreed to stay on in Chapter leadership positions in 2007. That will help assure us continuity of activities and will make my job easier. With the passing of John Gerometta Chapter Secretary & Editor jobs are open. I will cover these offices for now but will need help as soon as possible. Volunteers are asked to please step-up and give me a call - it will be greatly appreciated!

Now that the Arizona Chapter has recently completed a fun celebration of the Chapter's 50th Anniversary, our efforts can now be put forth to continue the Chapter's success.

For 2007, our major initiatives will continue to be our JROTC Award, Scholarship, Personal Affairs, Legislative, and Membership programs; and our social program with pleasant monthly meetings/activities and interesting speakers. Sources of funding for our Scholarship Program will continue to be a high priority. We plan to continue efforts to expand our Scholarship Program fund raising activities now that we have IRS approved 501(c)(3) status for the Scholarship Fund. A busy and challenging year lies ahead of us. Our success will depend on continued member support."

--Terry Tassin



Arizona Chapter Calendar

Jan 4, 2007

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Jan 20

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Feb 1

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Feb 17

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG

ARNG FAMILY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT

Thanks are due to the following members who each made a generous contribution to the ARNG Family Assistance Program in response to the request in the November Sentinel:

Dan Conway, Margaret Daniels, Mike Gannon, Daniel Germond, Doug Gray, Gary Fredricks, Alfred Pfordte, Charles Retz, Chuck Schluter, Lillian Utterback, and Ron Worthington. Their combined donation was \$945 which was added to donations from other Chapters and the Arizona Council making a total of a \$5,000 donated to the Fund.

This is an ongoing program. If you missed this last opportunity and would like to participate, please send your donations to Bill Johnson and he will make sure that they get to the right place.

**January Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, 20 January
McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **20 January** at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social hour at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 7 of this newsletter. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is **16 January** Come join us for good food and comradeship.

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter the members below have made generous donations to the:

General Fund:

Charles Retz \$25

Ed Waldmann \$10

Scholarship Fund:

Renate Weidenfeld \$10

Ed Waldmann \$15

Jim & Toni Seidl \$21

Ron & MaryKay Worthington \$20

ARNG Assistance Fund

Charles Retz \$25

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 199 members including, 49 auxiliary members and 32 new members for 2006.

Newsletter Advertising

If you or a business/organization known to you wishes to place an ad in *The Sentinel* please contact the Editor for details. Advertisements will be priced according to size in multiples that approximate standard business card dimensions. Proceeds from advertisements help defray cost of preparing the newsletter. Advertising costs are:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Annual (10 issues)</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>	<u>Impact Ad</u>
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks

In its final days the 109th Congress finally approved legislation to avoid the scheduled January 2007 5.1% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors by freezing 2007 rates at 2006 levels. Because this became one of MOAA's priority objectives as the year grew shorter, the bills passage was really good news. On the flip side, the 109th Congress left with 11 overdue appropriations bills for FY2007, which began back on October 1, still with no final action. Fortunately, the Defense appropriations bill was not one of them, but the VA appropriations bill was.

In order to keep the doors of the effected government departments open, the 109th Congress passed a continuing resolution that is effective until February 15. This provides funds and authorizes activities for the effected departments to continue operating at previously authorized levels. The longer this goes on the more difficult time the VA and others with no firm FY2007 budget provisions will have in meeting the current year's requirements. This is one to watch as the new year and the new congress take root.

The annual Veteran's Day at the State Legislature is fast approaching. This is an opportunity for all Arizona veterans to tour the state capitol and let their state legislators know what their issues are. The more veterans that turn out for these events, the more clout we have when legislative issues for veterans come up for review during the year. I know that Dan Conway and I plan to attend, and I hope we see some of your familiar faces as well.

The event will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2007, between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, on the East Senate lawn. The sponsor for this year's event is Ping, your famous golf equipment manufacturer. So, in addition to seeing the capitol and visiting state legislators, a free lunch will be served and you will be able to view the latest that Ping has to offer.

2007 Membership Renewal

by Terry Tassin

I again have some good news and some not so good news. The good news is that as of January 1st the Chapter had **199** members! The bad news is to date only **77** of those members have renewed their memberships for 2007.

I urge you to check the year following your name on the newsletter mailing label to see if you have an **06** after your name (if you get the Sentinel by mail) and if so - you need to renew. If you feel we have made a mistake let us know so we can resolve the problem. If you receive the Sentinel by email I recently sent you a copy of the roster indicating to what year your dues are paid-up.

We have made progress in restoring lost benefits over the last few years. Let us continue to be active to make sure we don't lose any benefits that have been restored. Get behind the Arizona Chapter and National MOAA and send your membership renewal application - that is on page 5 in this *Sentinel* - to Terry Tassin.

Don't even hesitate! Sit down and write a check for your 2007 dues and mail the check and the renewal form to me today!! While you are at it, a donation to the General and Scholarship funds would really be appreciated.

Happy New Year from Your Board of Directors!

From the Membership Chair!

by Dee Norton

What a great celebration the Arizona Chapter had at our 50th anniversary! VADM Ryan gave a wonderful speech on the diversity of membership to move MOAA forward. I've received several e-mails from others who attended the gala event and they all said they wish we had more of these events. That's the opportunity our chapter has to continue to build upon the momentum of our 50th anniversary celebration. VADM Ryan reminded us that MOAA is not just for retired officers, but for all officers who are serving (or have served) in any capacity. As the "greatest generation" population declines, we need a surge of new members to continue the MOAA unity of effort.

Earlier this year we started a membership drive to get the word out to those who are in our area that we are an active chapter who have accomplished many things of benefit thanks to the superb effort of our members. This effort continues, however, I encourage you to reach out and find potential members as well as make the effort for lapsed members to renew their chapter memberships. There are MOAA members - chapter and non chapter alike - who are eligible for membership but for whatever reason have not joined. We all know what MOAA has accomplished. Talk to your eligible friends or widows and urge them to join.

If anyone would like me to

Chaplain's Corner

"Lord heal us with your love. Allow it to envelop us and radiate from us making us whole and in harmony with others. May the power of your concern give us strength to grow beyond our mistakes and misjudgments. Amen."

—Robert Rutherford, Chaplain

send a membership packet to a potential member, just send me an e-mail with their name and address and I'll put one in the mail to them. We've already signed up over 25 new members this year and we want to surpass that in 2007!!! Keep up the good work . deenorton@cox.net.

Nominating Committee Report

As many of you probably know, we recently lost a good Chapter friend when John Gerometta passed away unexpectedly in December. In addition to being a good friend, John held two Chapter jobs. He was the Chapter Secretary, a voting member of the Board of Directors, and was also the editor of our monthly newsletter, the *Sentinel*. John also held the secretary billet on the slate of officers the nominating committee was putting forth for 2007.

Fortunately, we have Terry Tassin, the previous Chapter Secretary and *Sentinel* editor, on board. However, Terry was nominated by our committee and was elected by the membership at the last General Membership Meeting to be our new Chapter President beginning

Nominating Committee continued from page 3

in January. Whereas it is great to have Terry's secretary and editor expertise available to us, it is not possible for Terry to do these jobs in addition to being our president.

We desperately need one or two of our members to step forward and get us through this crisis. I assure you that a Chapter can not continue to exist if it can not fill the leadership positions needed to keep it functioning. The other members of the board can help during a transition, but can not do the jobs without some dedicated help.

The time spent by the Secretary will primarily involve keeping minutes at our monthly Board of Director and General Membership meetings and keeping up the Chapter roster. The time required of the editor is once a month calling for inputs and then putting them together into the Sentinel. Some computer skills are necessary in each job. If you have any questions on what we are looking for, you can contact one of the Chapter leaders that are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

We are looking for regular members, auxiliary members or spouses. Any are qualified. I have been actively working closely with your group of chapter leaders for the four years that I have now been in the

Phoenix area. I assure you that they are a dedicated as well as a fun group of ladies and gentlemen to work with. I know you will enjoy them too. Please contact us (phone numbers on back page of Sentinel) with regard to the Chapter Secretary or Sentinel editor tasks and join us in kicking off a great year for the Chapter next year.

WWII Memorial
by Chuck Schluter

The National World War II Memorial is truly a wonderful tribute to "the greatest generation". I know, because we were there, and it is incredibly impressive in scale, scope and individual substance. It was dedicated a little over two years ago – perhaps too late for many, who served, but it does stand for all future generations to see, and it tells one tremendous story.



Memorial Plaza

Marie and I were in Washington DC to attend the Annual Meeting of MOAA, and we arrived several days early because we wanted to visit a few of our national treasures - our memorials and our museums. We also had a special mission - because two of Marie's co-workers had lost their fathers during the Second World War, and were assumed to be listed in that Memorials registry. We were asked to confirm that they were indeed listed, and take

photos if possible.

In retrospect - I highly recommend that all members of our Chapter who served during WWII, or who know of folks who served, contact the National Parks Service and "register". Evidently, it is extremely easy to do. 4000 gold stars on the Memorials Freedom Wall commemorate the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives. However this particular memorial provides a powerful tribute to those who served - and very significantly - it includes ALL WHO SERVED!

We did find both of the men we were asked to find, and it took less than a minute. We typed in their names, and the screen in front of us returned their name, a color photo of each, their service branch and several sentences about that person. In both of these cases, someone had "submitted" details. The more generic findings will evidently return only basic information such as name, branch, etc.

You can learn more about the WWII Memorial by visiting the website at

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/default.asp?page=home.asp>

And if you haven't registered – go do it now (because in some cases folks, and you know I looked, and I know who you are, and you were not registered!) So go do it today!



Historical Affairs

by Frank Birtciel

Well, 2006 was 50 years getting here and we celebrated the "First Chapter's" 50th Anniversary on October 21, 2006. It was several years in the planning and with the support of the members it was a gala affair at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. The President of MOAA Norb Ryan Vice Admiral USN-Ret was the keynote speaker. Most of the Arizona Chapters were represented and a good time was had by all. The Chapter received its second 5 star Streamer from VADM Ryan.

The Chapter continues to carry on its Scholarship tradition and since 2000 has give \$22,000 in scholarships to deserving JROTC cadets.

The Chapter Honor Guard has participated in Memorial Day Celebrations since the new Millennium.

Our Chapter is well represented in the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame with 8 inductees. They are:

Class of 2001 Walter "Bill" Thompson.

Class of 2002 Tom Smith, Terry Tassin and William Toy.

Class of 2005 Mike Gannon and Dick Minor.

Class of 2006 Jim Seidl and Arthur Park Shaw.

The Chapter newsletter "*The Sentinel*" has won several awards for best in its category as has the Chapter Web site. Kudos to Terry Tassin Editor and Tom Houser Web Master.

We need a few good people to volunteer for duties that are open including Secretary, Editor and Historian that are being covered by folks doing double duty.

This is your chance to take part in the planning and execution of day to day business of your chapter.

News You Can Use !

by Paul Fein

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)/Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) Open Season

If a retiree is eligible for both CRDP and CRSC, he or she may participate in the CRDP/CRSC **Open Season**. This annual open season election period will be from January 1, through January 31, 2007 and allows the retiree to choose which payment is preferred. Federal law states that you can receive CRDP or CRSC; not both.

Beginning in late December, eligible retirees will be mailed a CRDP/CRSC Open Season Election Form. The retiree needs to return the form only if making a change from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa. If the retiree prefers to keep things the way they are, they *do nothing*. The payments the retiree now receives will continue uninterrupted.

To help the retiree make a more informed decision, the form will include a comparison of the CRSC and CRDP entitlement amounts as well as information about the collection actions and taxes to which each type of payment is subject.

If the retiree wants to change from CRDP to CRSC, or vice versa, the form must be postmarked by January 31, 2007. If the form is dated after this date, it will not be processed and the current payments will continue uninterrupted.

The change in the payment will be effective with the first business day of February 2007. Due to a 30-day processing timeframe, the retiree may not receive their first payment until the first business day of March 2007 including a retroactive adjustment for the payment that would have been paid on the first business day of February.

The retiree's election will remain in effect unless changed from CRDP to CRSC or vice versa in a subsequent annual open season.

AZ Chapter MOAA 2007 Membership Renewal Notice

Thank you for your AZ Chapter support during 2006. Your support for our chapter has helped provide the base for our scholarship program for outstanding Valley area JROTC students; for our efforts to represent you on state and local legislative issues; for our actions - including our award winning **Sentinel** - to keep you involved and informed on these and broader issues affecting our military and retired community and for our schedule of activities promoting camaraderie and friendship.

For most members, this serves as your notice that AZ Chapter dues for 2007 are due on January 1, 2007, and are delinquent 60 days thereafter. Here's how you can tell if your dues are due. Look on the mailing label if you received your **Sentinel** by USPS. After your last name is a number – if it is **06**, your dues are due. Higher numbers have paid their dues in advance. Members that only receive the **Sentinel** by e-mail have received a notification by email. If you disagree with your due date, please let us know.

A T T E N T I O N A U X I L I A R Y M E M B E R S

A reminder to all auxiliary members that it is time to renew your annual dues of \$10. It is very important that you continue your membership in order to stay abreast of legislative issues that affect all of us. We as auxiliary members continue to enjoy benefits, such as Tricare for Life and the phasing out of the Survivors Benefit Plan age-62 annuity reduction. We are grateful to all who made that possible.

Jo Anne Thompson, Auxiliary Chairperson

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

Arizona Chapter 2007 Membership Renewal Form

*Member Full Name: _____

*Membership Renewal: **\$20** Regular member _____

*Membership Renewal: **\$10** Auxiliary member _____

*I wish to receive the Chapter Newsletter (*The Sentinel*) by {select one}:

_____ *E-mail (in full color) or _____ U.S. Mail (hard copy black & white)

(Please consider receiving the Sentinel by email ONLY to help reduce production cost)

*E-Mail Address: _____

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to:

**AZ CHAPTER MOAA
C/O Terry Tassin
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302**

IT TAKES JUST A FEW HOURS TO CHANGE YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. JOIN US FOR A FREE ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR.

The attorneys of MHK invite you to be part of an important event where we'll shed some light on estate planning, the myths of wills and the importance of a living trust.

Tuesday 16	9-11 AM	SUN LAKES OAKWOOD COUNTRY CLUB 24218 South Oakwood Boulevard - Sun Lakes, 85248
Tuesday 16	7-9 PM	JW MARRIOTT DESERT RIDGE 5250 East Marriott Drive - Phoenix, 85054
Wednesday 17	9-11 AM	SUN CITY GRAND SONDRAN PLAZA 19753 North Rimington Drive - Surprise, 85374
Wednesday 17	9-11 AM	HITCH SCOTTSDALE 6333 North Scottsdale Road - Scottsdale, 85250
Wednesday 17	7-9 PM	CROWNE PLAZA - SAN MARCOS GOLF RESORT One San Marcos Place - Chandler, 85225
Thursday 18	9-11 AM	WOWWAM RESORT 300 East Wigwam Boulevard - Uppfield Park, 85340
Thursday 18	9-11 AM	WINDYBEE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER 5750 East Main Street - Mesa, 85205
Thursday 18	7-9 PM	ARROWHEAD COUNTRY CLUB 19888 North 73rd Avenue - Glendale, 85308
Thursday 18	7-9 PM	CAMELBACK INN 3402 East Lincoln Drive - Scottsdale, 85253
Saturday 20	9-11 AM	POINTE SQUARE PEAK 7677 North 16th Street - Phoenix, 85020

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January Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: January 20, 2007
11:00 a.m. Social Period
12:00 Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$18.00 - Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chief's Choice

Program: Alice L. Demarais, RN, MSN, MA, Colonel, Army Nurse (retired), Market Vice President, Mountain Market, TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form printed below.

-- Jim Seidl, Programs



TAPS



We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

CDR John W. Gerometta USCG (Ret)

December 29, 1936 - December 9, 2006

Our heart felt condolences are extended to the family.

If you know of a member or spouse who enters the hospital or passes away, please notify one of the Chapter Officers.

CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.**

General Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ [now a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor : _____ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ___ NO ___

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$18.00 per person) for **20 January 2007**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 16 January 2007**

Send to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-690-1012**

The Arizona Chapter solicits advertisements for the purpose of defraying the cost of publication of the newsletter. The Chapter has not made any investigation as to the products and services advertised herein and makes no representation or warranties as to the advertisements in the newsletter.

The Arizona Chapter - MOAA - 2007 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302



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