



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

4333 W. Echo Lane

Glendale Arizona

85302

JUNE 2007

CHARTERED 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN



President's Perspective by Terry Tassin

Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona - great job guys.

May was a marvelous month for the Chapter. Early in the month we held our semi-annual golf outing at El Caro Golf Course, enjoying a cool Arizona day, fostering camaraderie and friendship and earning money for our JROTC scholarship fund. Also, we wrapped-up our Chapter awards program by providing medals to deserving young JROTC members at 17 high schools throughout the valley. Our May General Membership meeting saw our members coming together to make scholarship presentations to three deserving high school students - what a fun time! Finally, our Chapter Color Guard consisting of Tom Houser, Bill Johnson, Bill Roscher, and Paul Fein, was featured at the Memorial

Our May General Membership meeting luncheon marked our annual scholarship awards event which is always the highlight of our year for me. Thanks to a good fund raising effort within the Chapter and with support from Courtesy Chevrolet (*thank you very much*), we were able to once again provide \$1000 scholarships - this time to three outstanding young men and women who are graduating from high school this year. Seeing these young people in uniform and listening to their comments as to the meaning of the scholarship and their plans for it always gives me a warm fuzzy feeling. We did good!

By the way, I hope you have all noted the lovely arrangements that have been showing-up on your tables at our luncheons (*thank you very much Marie Fredricks, Arrangements*) and the interesting programs we are having (*thanks Chuck Schluter, Programs Chairman*). Because this is the last chance I'll have to "urge" you in the newsletter, just a final reminder that we are having a fun outing on July 14th at the Arizona Broadway Theater in Peoria, AZ. Details have been published in the Sentinel. The cut off for getting your money to Marie Fredricks is June 28th. Hope to see lots of our members and their quests at the luncheon and show.

And finally, just a heads-up that the board of directors will be considering, at the June board meeting, a proposed change in our Chapter general meeting months. It appears that our Chapter is one of the few holding meetings in June. Most chapters "go

Arizona Chapter Calendar

- June 7**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room 107
- June 14 - Flag Day**
- June 16**
 - General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club
- July 14**
 - AZ Broadway Theatre - performance of "Grease"
- July - August - Dark**
- September 6**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30, AZ Veteran's Home, Room 107
- Sep 15**
 - General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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HELP WANTED!

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. **It's FUN - Try it you'll like it!!**

Continued on Page 2

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

President's Perspective... Continued from Page 1

dark” during the months of June through August. A discussion of this subject will be held at the board meeting and voted upon. I'll let you know the results as soon as possible. If you have input you would like me to present to the board, please provide it to me prior to June 6 - email works best for me or see last page for my phone

This will be the last *Sentinel* prior to our two-month summer break. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and that we all come back reenergized in September. I also hope to see you at our June General Membership meeting which will be the last meeting prior to the summer break. Our speaker will be our very own BG Greg Maxon who will be updating us on what's happening at the Arizona Veteran's Home and the Arizona National Guard.

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 donations to the:

Scholarship Fund:

The Pedersen's - \$10

The Gannon's - \$23

The Green's - 25

The Dale's - \$36

**Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, June 16
McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **June 16** 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 **June 14**. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter:

CAPT Jean Riley USPHS (Ret)

6526 E. Hubbell Strett

Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Tele: 480-949-0218

Email: jriley14@earthlink.net

CWO3 Roger Schartzter USCG (Ret)

16208 N. 33rd Way

Phoenix, AZ 85032

Tele: 602-795-3434

Email: rschartzer@cox.net

CPT Edward Schein USAR (Frm) & wife Patricia

P.O. Box 15240

Phoenix, AZ 85060

Tele: 602-957-2365

Email: eschein@cox.net

CDR Donald Vance USN (Ret) & wife Janice

1936 E. Cavalry Road

New River, AZ 85087

Tele: 623-465-1713

Email: donald_vance@msn.com

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members.

Coming Attractions!

The **June 16th** program will be rather special and certainly timely. An interest in the current events and lessons learned regarding expanded utilization and mission responsibilities of the Arizona National Guard and other Reserve units has been expressed by several of our members. BG Maxon, a member of both the Arizona Army National Guard and our Chapter will provide his personal perspective regarding those Reserve Components today. The uniqueness of Force structure, deployments, and rotations, heavy impact upon civilian careers, families and communities, unprecedented in scope as it is, promises to be both provocative as well as highly informative. Be there!

SPECIAL EVENT: Instead of taking our traditional summer break in July and August we are planning a trip to the Arizona Broadway Theatre. Group rates apply, and the show "Grease" seems perfect for a Saturday Matinee outing. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks

As the Sentinel goes to press for June, before our Chapter two-month summer recess, we have some encouraging things happening on the legislative front, but nothing is a done deal just yet. On the Federal side, the House of Representatives passed the FY2008 Defense Authorization Bill after approving a number of amendments addressing personnel, pay and benefits issues for the active force and retired members and their families. The Senate is still working their version of the bill, and, of course, any differences need to be addressed in joint committee.

You may remember that last year the Senate finished first, but amendments included in the Senate version were not included in the House version and were lost in joint committee action. The fact that the House has addressed these issues this year, albeit not always as much as we would like to see, must be viewed as an improvement over last year.

Two other major efforts on the Federal level, the Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care and the Veteran's Disability Benefits Commission are also still in work with the former due to report out in June of this year. The Task

Force was established by Congress last year to try to get a handle on what to do about the increases in TRICARE and pharmacy costs that were being proposed by DOD. As we stand today, both the House and Senate have gone on record that there will be no increases for these items this fiscal year. So, we will see the issues pushed to next year at the earliest.

On the state level, the Legislature is in their two-week Memorial Day break. It appears they are still on track to complete action on the state budget some time in June. There are over thirty draft bills potentially affecting the state military, Guard/Reserve and veteran communities still resident at committee level. Few of these will make it all the way to law this year. My crystal ball says that we are going to get the final 19 additional Veteran Benefit Councilors funded that were recommended by the Governor's Veterans Task Force from 2005. We should get state funding support for the VA Home this year. Would you believe that the state legislature would not provide the legislation that was initially required to start the Home unless it was certified that it would be self sustaining (Federal and private funding only) with no state funding required? No wonder there were problems with staffing the Home that surfaced this year.

On the Federal level in addition to heading off increases in health care this year, it appears as a minimum we will get a 3.5% increase in military pay (the administration proposed 3%), we will get a funded increase in troop levels (the last one Congress neglected to fund), we will get some improvements in the way we treat our Guard/Reserve contingency, and we will get a nominal (small) improvement to the DIC/SBP offset issue. We are not likely to see the implementation date for 30-year paid up SBP moved forward to this year from next. We will see how this all plays out, but I firmly believe that your help and all the other veterans help in getting our Congressmen and women's attention on military and veterans issues is truly making a difference.



MOAA Name Tags

For anyone needing an Arizona Chapter Name Tag, order forms will be available at each Chapter meeting or you can call Dee Norton at 480-275-5089 to place your order. It is requested that you pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting, they can be mailed to you. Several name tags previously ordered, were available at the meeting in May.

Still Getting the Old B & W Snail Mail Newsletter?

Let the Editor know at terrytassin@cox.net that you wish the email version. You'll get the color version, quicker, and you'll save the Chapter some money. Plus, the email version is open to all - whether Chapter member or not.

Memorial Day 2007

Many of us started Memorial Day at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road.

The program is really impressive and includes a quickly moving agenda which includes a fly over of bi-planes of the Escadrille Lafayette'd Arizona, a parade of Color Guards, lots of patriotic music, placement of Memorial Wreaths, and much more. If you have never been there, make it a point next year to attend; you will be impressed.

This year the Arizona Chapter was represented by members both in the audience and "on duty". Our Chapter fielded an MOAA Color Guard commanded by Tom Houser, and consisting of Bill Roscher, Bill Johnson, and Paul Fein.

Your Chapter did a great job as usual!



Spring Golf Tournament

The AZ Chapter MOAA Spring Golf Tournament was held on Friday, May 4th at El Caro Golf Club. Twenty-eight MOAA members and guests showed up for this beautiful day with temperatures in the mid-80's. We have certainly been living right to get the good weather for our events.



Checking In

with some sort of prize.

\$730 was collected for the scholarship program which goes a long way in helping put together the necessary funds for our scholarships. Good effort - Good cause - And a fun time!

After golfing was completed, all participants took part in a great breakfast brunch served by the golf course staff. It was delicious and enjoyed by all. After brunch prizes were given out with just about everyone walking away



Pre-Briefing



What's a hole in one?

future hole sponsors from all members would be appreciated.

See you in the fall at our next tournament which is tentatively scheduled to be held again at El Caro Golf Course. Stay tuned for details, and keep practicing! Lets get more of our Chapter members out on the course enjoying the camaraderie and good fellowship of this cause. Feed back on additional



Do I have enough prizes?



The President and his patented golf swing guaranteed to hook every time!

JROTC Awards 2007

Mission accomplished in the presentation of JROTC certificates and medals to the seventeen high schools under the cognizance of the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. The enclosed picture of Chapter President LCDR Terry Tassin USN (Ret) making the presentation to Cadet Stephan McClain of Apollo High School is emblematic of what was accomplished at each of the other schools. The volunteerism of each of the presenters is greatly appreciated.



Cadet McClain stated: *"I sincerely appreciate being selected to receive the Military Officers Association of America award during the Apollo NJROTC Awards ceremony on May 8th. It is a great honor. Your recognition encourages me to work even harder to reach my goals. Thank You!"* -- Stephan McClain, Apollo High School

Did you know - By registering your spouse's name now with national MOAA, your MOAA member benefits will be automatically transferred should you predecease them. For annual members, the remainder of your membership period will transfer, at which point your spouse can join MOAA as an Auxiliary Member. Life membership covers your spouse for the rest of their life. An easy way to update your personal information with national is to go to the national website at <http://www.moaa.org/> and look in the "FOR MEMBERS ONLY" box on the right side of the page. Click on "Update My Information" and that will take you right to your personal data. You can then enter your spouse's name as an update - it's that easy.

2007 AZ Chapter Scholarship Recipient's

These great looking young people are this year's recipients of the Arizona Chapter's 2007 Scholarships. After each student gave a short report on their future plans, each was presented with a Scholarship Certificate and a \$1000 check to help with their college expenses.



L to R and Universities Attending:

AZ Chapter President Terry Tassin, Clinton May - Cactus High to University of North Dakota, Michael Jurczak - Alhambra High School, and Monique Ramirez - Apollo High School to Northern Arizona University, and representing Courtesy Chevrolet Mr. George Carson.

June Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: June 16, 2007
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
12:00 Noon Lunch

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

COST: \$18.00 - Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: BG Greg Maxon will be talking about the Arizona Veteran's Home and the AZ National Guard.

Reservations need to be received by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon date. Cancellations for reservations made need to be received by that same Thursday in order to receive your money back or not be charged for lunch. Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form on page 7.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT. DON'T MISS OUT! SEND YOUR CHECKS TO MARIE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS! CHECKS MUST BE IN HER HANDS NO LATER THAN THE 28TH OF JUNE. NO EXCEPTIONS!

The Arizona Chapter of MOAA has reserved a limited number of seats at the

ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE

7701 W Paradise Lane
Peoria, AZ

WHEN: Saturday, July 14, 2007

TIME: 11.15 am - 11:45 am.....Registration/Cocktails in Lobby
11:45 am - 12:15 am.....Backstage Tour
12:15 pm - 2:00 pm.....Lunch
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.....Performance of musical - "**GREASE**"

COST: \$42 per person

This includes all of the above including gratuity. Alcoholic beverages, soda, and dessert are extra.

- - COMPLETE THEATRE RESERVATION FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK - -

Reserve your seats NOW by sending a check payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA". Mail checks to:

**MARIE FREDRICKS
15403 E. Sunburst Dr
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268**

Please reserve _____ tickets for the performance of **GREASE**, July 14, 2007.

Name (s): _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ (\$42.00 per person) **ALL SALES ARE FINAL!**

- Don't miss this opportunity to see this great theatre and enjoy the company of your fellow members of Arizona Chapter MOAA! The deadline for Marie (phone 480-836-8419) to receive a check is **June 28, 2007**.
- **Remember - Seats are limited! and we have many members who already have indicated they will attend. Mail your checks today!**



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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 **16 June 2007**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** No Later Than: **14 June 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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