



AZ Council of Chapters



Date: November 2018

President: LtCol Dick Jonas



President's Message

This will be my last column for the newsletter as State Council president. My term ends at the end of 2018. I graduate to the august position of Immediate Past President, where all I have to do is give advice. My great hope is that the advice I pass on (when and if asked) is as good as what I received from my predecessor, Ron Perkins, whose footprints I have tracked for some years now.

I have learned . . . not learned, but had reinforced, that a leader is only as good and effective as those he leads. In my tenure, I've had the high good fortune to be supported by a strong, hard-working staff. The leaders in the chapters and satellites, the presidents and staffs, continually employed their talents and dedication to build and sustain a strong MOAA presence throughout the state and in the State Legislature.

I am especially indebted to Pete Kloeber, the State Council vice president, for his support, assistance, and advice to me at some difficult personal times. I had a medical issue which prevented my participating in Storming the Hill in the Nation's capital. Pete stepped in without hesitation twice on my behalf and the job got done. My sincere thanks to him.

I take particular pride in our achievement of the highest Level of Excellence Awards. Six years in a row the State Council and all 9 chapters have achieved a 5-Star LOE rating. I am advised by National MOAA that no other state has exceeded that level of sustained performance. That kind of an achievement record begins down where the rubber meets the road. We are that good because we work that hard.

Let me mention just a few specifics.

For the first time in memory, the State Legislature approved and the Governor signed into law a bill which, beginning in 2019, will increase the state tax exemption on military retired pay by 40%. The exemption has been \$2500 for several decades. Next year the exemption increases to \$3500. Darren Venters, our state legislative chair, was AZMOAA's point man for the success of that effort.

Satellite chapters, in my view, are key to membership growth in our state. Arizona is big — 114,000 square miles. That's almost 100 times the size of the State of Rhode Island, and twice the size of most of the rest. The larger the numbers of meeting places, the more opportunity there is to show up and participate in MOAA's veterans' causes. We have four satellites in Arizona. That's 25% of all the MOAA satellite chapters nationwide. Starting and sustaining a viable organization requires much effort. It requires showing up, being there to participate, to make inputs and suggestions. It helps tremendously for a struggling, small organization to see your face, to visit, to share discussion on the challenges we face. I'm proud of the effort the parent chapters have put into developing these fledgling satellite chapters. For

next year, after my tenure as president is finished, I have requested a position on the State Staff which I have held before. I'm going to help Ron Perkins in the work of Chapter Development. He and I will need your help, too.

It has been a very busy and sometimes turbulent two years. I am proud to have had a part in driving this very important train. I hope you'll join with me in supporting the new leaders coming on board. Onward and upward!

Dick Jonas, President



Secretary's Message

The 2018 Fall Arizona Council of Chapters meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 1 November at 0800. The location will be the Arizona Grand Resort and Spa located at 8000 S. Arizona Grand Parkway, Phoenix, AZ. The phone number for the resort is 602-438-9000. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find further information on the council meeting, as well as information on National MOAA's annual meeting.

Pam Wojtas, Secretary

**2018 MOAA Annual Meeting:
Nov 1 & 2, 2018, Phoenix, AZ**

Meeting rooms and specific information will be provided upon your arrival and registration at the Arizona Grand Resort & Spa; 8000 S. Arizona Grand Parkway,

Phoenix, AZ 85044. (602)438-9000:
Reservations (877)800-4888

**2018 MOAA Annual Meeting:
Nov 1 & 2, 2018, Phoenix, AZ
Schedule of Events**

EVENT TIME	DESCRIPTION
Nov 1	
8:00 AM	AZCoC Meeting;
4:00 PM	AZ Chapter - Hosting Invocation Pledge of Allegiance Installation of 2019 - 2020 Officers. Guest Speakers: Lt Gen Atkins, Pres/CEO, MOAA Tom Hessler, Pres, AVHOF Council and Chapter Reports
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
5:30 - 6:30 PM	MOAA Distinguished Contributor Reception MOAA Distinguished Contributors are: Never Stop Serving Leadership Circle Members: MOAA Heritage Society Members: MOAA Scholarship Society Members: Distinguished Contributors. <u>Attire: Business</u>
6:30 - 9:00 PM	Level of Excellence Awards Dinner <u>Attire: Business</u>
Nov 2	<u>Attire: Business</u>
6:00 AM	Registration
12:00 PM	MOAA Partner Displays
6:00 - 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast All Attendees

8:30 - **MOAA Annual Meeting of
the Membership**
9:30 AM
9:45 -- **MOAA Informational
Workshops**
11:50 AM

9:45 – 10:45 AM
**Chapter Roundtable: Receive
additional training on the Chapter
Committee Module and Community
Grants**

9:45 – 10:45 AM
**Seven Critical Issues You Must Consider
Before Retiring from the Service: Here's
what you'll need to be prepared for as
you get ready to retire from military
service.**

10:50 – 11:50 AM
**Open Line Friday – A Financial Town
Hall with MOAA's Financial and
Benefits Expert: Let Lt Col Shane
Ostrom, USAF (Ret), CFP®, know what's
on your mind in this lively discussion
session. The blended retirement
system, retirement accounts,
investments, benefits, and financial
issues are all on the table.**

12:00 – 1:30 PM
**Chairman's luncheon – Keynote
Speaker: Gen Norton Schwartz, USAF
(Ret) Former Chief of Staff of the Air
Force**

2:00 – 3:00 PM
**Special Break Out Session:
A Benefits Open Season; Find out
what's new in dental and vision plans
for retirees. How does it all work?
What are your options?**

3:30 PM **Chapter Leaders'
Workshop:**

**By MOAA Invitation to Chapter
Presidents, Membership Chairs and
Legislative Chairs from Southern
California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New
Mexico and Colorado.**

**The workshop begins at 3:30 PM
on Friday Nov 2nd and ends with
lunch on Saturday Nov 3rd.**

**This workshop is intended to support
Chapter leaders in the areas of
recruiting/retention best practices and
legislative topics. It will also provide
strategic overviews of the Association's
current posture, goals and membership
programs.**

Information and schedules for this
Workshop will be provided to those
eligible members who have registered
by October 3rd.



Treasure's Report

I have been asked by the Council to take over the Legislative Chair position from Darren Venters and so will be moving from the Treasurer position once appointed by the new Council President. We have identified a prospective Council Treasurer in Col Charlie Bitner, USAF Ret, who is currently the Chapter Treasurer for the Arizona Chapter, MOAA. Charlie is very well qualified to be your Council Treasurer. He will be appointed by the new Council President to be elected at November's meeting. I am hoping you will have an opportunity to meet him at the November 1 Council Meeting.

The Council's finances remain in excellent shape for 2018. In July, the council received a

check for \$272.50 from MOAA as reimbursement for mileage incurred by council officers in performing the duties of their office. We have also received a grant from USAA for \$800 to support a Legislative Advocacy Seminar presentation at the November 1 Council meeting.

I will have a Treasurer’s Report of income and expenses for the last year to present to the membership at our November meeting. I will also present a proposed budget for 2018 – 2019 for discussion and approval. In preparing the proposed budget I have asked the Council Secretary, Pam Wojtas, to ask all chapters for their member numbers as of October 1, 2018, broken down by regular members and surviving spouses. These numbers will be used to determine chapter dues to the Council for 2019.

Thanks for your support.

Lee Lange, Treasurer



VETERAN LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

There is an old saying that goes like this “Strike while the Iron is HOT”. Election for members of the Arizona House and Senate are just a few weeks away! Do you know if the candidates from your district will sponsor or co-sponsor legislation increasing the “exemption for Military Retirement pay”? Have you asked the candidates?

Now is the time to ask for their commitment. “The IRON IS HOT”

Just as a reminder to Chapter Presidents and Legislative Chairs here are the Legislative Districts you need to follow up with. We do not have a legion of people wearing red shirts demanding that our positions be supported. You

must make a convincing, logical argument to secure the Legislators support. Remember, before the election they NEED you, afterwards, well?

Chapter Name	Number	Legislative Districts Responsible for
Arizona	AZ01	15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
Coronado	AZ02	14
Green Valley	AZ03	10
Northern AZ	AZ04	1, 5
Luke	AZ06	13, 19, 21, 22
Superstition Mountain	AZ07	8, 12, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26
Tucson	AZ08	2, 3, 99, 10, 11
Yuma	AZ10	4
Grand Canyon	AZ11	6, 7

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs



ESGR News

Mr. Craig McKinley, National Chair, ESGR announced; effective October 1, 2018, Mr. Dan Irving is the Chair, Arizona Committee Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve. Dan is the former Command Chief of the Arizona National Guard. The Arizona Committee has 60 volunteers located throughout the state.

Darren Venters, ESGR Chairman



PERSONAL AFFAIRS

WHAT IS A PERSONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER?

An interesting question and likely a myriad of answers. The MOAA Council & Chapter Guide provides the following: “A personal affairs officer serves as the primary point of contact for issues associated with military rights and entitlements, with special emphasis on survivor benefits information. A personal affairs officer is expected to deal directly with the benefits and finance experts in MOAA’s Transition Center.”

10 to 15 years ago the councils’ and chapters’ personal affairs officers were invited to the annual MOAA regional conferences and there was a separate training track for them. Today with changed priorities they have been displaced by the councils’ and chapters’ legislative liaisons who are now among the invitees to the regional conferences. However, personal affairs remain an important part of councils and chapters. The Level of Excellence (LOE) submissions include a question regarding the chapter’s personal affairs activities. Over the last few years I have had the opportunity to review and score LOE submissions. One size does not fit all.

Some chapters’ personal affairs activities are one-person shows with minimal outreach (“call me if you have a problem or need information.”) On the other hand, there are chapters which are very proactive with the Personal Affairs Officer, Chaplain, and Surviving Spouse Liaison working as a team regularly reading local newspaper obituaries, reaching out to the next of kin, and periodically including personal affairs articles in the chapter newsletter. Needless to say, the latter type of chapter scores very well on the LOE.

Searching the local obituaries in Green Valley is easy and likely not so easy for a chapter in Maricopa County. Every chapter is unique. However, you are not alone. MOAA has a wealth of information among its publications (*log into moaa.org, click on Publications & Media, then click MOAA Publications, and then start browsing.*) I strongly suggest that every Personal Affairs Officer becomes familiar with the MOAA publications and downloads or requests a hard copy of the publications that will be useful to your chapter. If that does not work for you, as MOAA suggests, contact the benefits and finance experts in MOAA’s Transition Center. Also, the MOAA Arizona Council website (azcouncilofchapters.org) under Personal Affairs has some very useful information. For the personal officers who are one-person shows you should get others involved and fashion a team approach which brings together different expertise.

Outreach does not have to be confined to members of the local chapter. One has to be sensitive about the timing and the approach, but reaching out to the surviving spouse of a recently deceased National MOAA member sends a message that we are available to assist and it is a chapter recruiting opportunity. One of Gen. Atkins’s MOAA success stories is about a chapter which had reached out to the surviving spouse of a National MOAA member. She advised that MOAA saved her life. She had been in a funk since the passing of her husband and the outreach from the local chapter and her subsequent involvement with the chapter gave her a renewed zest for life.

Personal Affairs is one of the important benefits of being a MOAA member. **For Chapter Presidents, please ensure your Personal Affairs Officer receives and reads this article!** If you have any question, please contact me, jchernoski@cox.net.

*John J. Chernoski
Arizona Council Personal Affairs Officer*

BeConnectedAZ.org:

Is an outreach program connecting Arizona's 600,000 service members, veterans & their families to support and resources. Learn more and explore next steps:

BeConnectedAZ.org
1-866-4AZ-VETS



SURVIVING SPOUSE NEWS

I thought I would touch base and pass along some update information regarding benefits and recent congressional decisions.

1. This link will provide information on the outcome of a recent attempt by congress to raise TRICARE fees for retirees. Fortunately, the increase was rejected by congress.

<https://www.military.com/militaryadvantage/2018/07/26/pay-raise-tricare-hikes-officer-promotions-military-parade-all-part-defense-bill.html>

2. This is a link to the Benefeds website. It provides information on both the new dental and vision plans available in 2019. You can sign up to receive updates and reminders of deadlines for signing up or making changes. Sign up starts in November 2018. If you click on the Retirees

button, there is a tool allowing you to compare the new plans. I found this to be very helpful.

<https://www.tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/indexAction>

3. This link provides information on the new dental plans set to go into effect in 2019.

https://www.military.com/military-report/6-things-know-about-new-retiree-dental-plan.html?ESRC=mr_180730.nl

4. The battle continues on repeal or reform of the SBP-DIC offset. If you would like information on the current list of co-sponsors follow the link below. Once there, there is a tab that is titled "Cosponsors" for the Senate Bill. If you click on the tab, it will show you which Senators are signed on as Cosponsors.

If you click on the tab titled "Related Bills", you will see H.R. 846. Clicking on the tab will show you which Reps are actually signed on.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/339>

NOTE: Neither of our two Senators have signed on. Five members of the House have agreed to be co-sponsors.

Next year there will be a new dental and vision program offered through Tricare. Details are evolving but you can pre-enroll at www.TRICARE.benefeds.com.

There is a lot going on and. If you would like more information on any of these programs or would like to receive emails or regular mail with information concerning these and future issues, please contact me.

Thank you;
Sharon Douglas
AZCoC Surviving Spouse Representative

Contact Information:
P.O. Box 95 Dewey, Arizona 86327
Phone Number: 928 632 5939
Sharon.Douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MOAA
ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2018 MEMBERS:**

Chapter

Arizona	Lee Lange Ray Boucher
Tucson	Tom Owens
Yuma	Don Eskam Dean Hager
Grand Canyon	Peter Kloeber
Coronado	Stuart Carter Joe Britton (deceased) Doris Caldwell



Arizona Council of Chapters (MOAA)

President: Richard Jonas, Lt Col, USAF Ret.
Address: P.O. Box 1226, Chino Valley, AZ
86323
Email: az04nac@erosonic.com
Phone Number: 928-636-2259

Vice President: Peter Kloeber, Col, USAF Ret.
Address: 2651 Mary Colter, Flagstaff, AZ
86001
Email: pkloeber@earthlink.net
Phone Number: 928-525-0585

Secretary & Membership: Pam Wojtas
Address: 19065 N Mira Bello Rd, Surprise, AZ
85374
Email: jp7wojtas@gmail.com
Phone Number: 623-544-4477

Treasurer: Lee Lange, Col, USMC, Ret.
Address: 41122 N Majesty Way, Anthem, AZ
85086
Email: lflange48@gmail.com
Phone Number: (c) 703-232-3609, (h) 623-215-4721

Legislative Affairs & ESGR:
Darren Venters, Lt. Col, USAF, Ret
Address: 1510 Eagle Crest Drive, Prescott, AZ
86301
Email: dventers@msn.com
Phone Number: 520-490-4479

Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee Rep:
Sharon Douglas
P.O. Box 95 Dewey, Arizona 86327
Email:
Sharon.Douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com
Phone Number: 928-632-5939

National MOAA BOD Member & Personal
Affairs Officer:
John Chernoski, CDR, USN, Ret.
Address: 2009 East Oak Hill Place, Green
Valley, AZ 85614-6290
Email: jchernoski@cox.net
Phone Number: 520-625-3909

Transitions Liaison:
Harry Bowen, CW3, USA, Ret
Address: 1950 Cottonwood Drive, Sierra Vista,
AZ 85635
Email: harrybowen@aol.com
Phone Number: 520-458-1058

Chapters Development Directors:
Allen F. Rossow, COL, USA Ret.
Address: 1548 Buena Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ
85635
Email: alrossow@cox.net
Phone Number: 520-439-4144

Ronald J. Perkins, Col, USAF Ret.
Address: 6393 W. Dublin Lane, Chandler, AZ
85226
Email: rbperkins@cox.net
Phone Number: (h) 480-961-8632,
(c) 602-295-3880

Immediate Past President: Ronald J. Perkins,
Col, USAF Ret.
Address: 6393 W. Dublin Lane, Chandler, AZ
85226
Email: rbperkins@cox.net
Phone Number: (h) 480-961-8632,
(c) 602-295-3880



2019 -- 2023 AZ COC Meetings
Important upcoming Dates & Hosts

Spring 2019: Grand Canyon

Fall 2019: Green Valley

Spring 2020: Coronado

Fall 2020: Tucson

Spring 2021: Northern Arizona

Fall 2021: Superstition Mountain

Spring 2022: Yuma

Fall 2022: Luke

Spring 2023: Arizona

*The 1 November, 2018 Council
of Chapters MOAA Meeting is
sponsored in part by a
USAA/MOAA grant.*

