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About Us

Who We Are. The Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC), an affiliate of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), is a dynamic organization of more than 1,100 active, retired, and former officers of the uniformed services of the United States, and the surviving spouses thereof. The AZCOC was chartered on 6 Jun 1975 and later incorporated in the state of Arizona on 30 Sep 1992. It is comprised of [nine chapters and one satellite chapter](#).

Vision. MOAA is recognized as Arizona's most committed and effective advocate for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families.

Mission. To provide a unified voice and support for all MOAA members and chapters in Arizona in promoting and supporting National MOAA's goals, objectives, and advocacy for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families.



President's Message Page 1 of 6

Greetings to all MOAA members—and all others—who may be reading this Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC) newsletter. I am writing this article just before Memorial Day; a day that, after [World War I](#), came to be observed in honor of those who had died in all U.S. wars, its name changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day. I am sure most of us have a specific person(s) we remember on Memorial Day - I know I do. I believe this is an appropriate time to remember and pay respect to two individuals we recently lost that, while not veterans, contributed greatly to MOAA, the AZCOC, and their respective chapters: Marlene Fox, Newsletter Editor for the Superstition Mountain Chapter and Betty Perkins, wife of Ron Perkins, Past President of the AZCOC and the Arizona Chapter.

We recently held our semiannual (Spring) State Council Meeting, and you can learn what the meeting included/covered by reading the very thorough minutes—prepared by our Secretary, Pam Wojtas—on the Council's website: <https://www.azcouncilofchapters.org/about-us/>. Below are some of the more notable items from the meeting:

- Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards
 - Six Websites: AZCOC; Arizona, Coronado, Luke, and Superstition Mountain Chapters (5 Star); and Green Valley Chapter (4 Star)



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- 8-Newsletters: AZCOC; Arizona, Coronado, Grand Canyon, Luke, and Superstition Mountain Chapters (5 Star); and Green Valley, and Northern Arizona Chapters (4 Star)
- Council Membership
 - As of 1 May 2022, total membership for our nine chapters was 1,019, which is a reduction of 28 members in the last year.
 - This total member number represents only some 12% of MOAA members in the state meaning we still have a lot of potential chapter members out there
 - An amazing 99% are members of National MOAA – compared to a national average of 88%
- Council Finances. Remain strong
- Satellite Chapters
 - The Catalina Mountains Satellite Chapter (Tucson Chapter) continues to grow and excel; in fact, the ***Catalina Mountains Satellite Chapter on 27 May 2022 submitted a request to MOAA for affiliation as its own independent MOAA chapter (MOAA approval pending).***
 - The Mohave Satellite Chapter (Northern Arizona Chapter) and Central Arizona Satellite Chapter (Superstition Mountain Chapter) were inactivated at the end of 2021 due to →



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inactivity and problematic leadership succession.

- MOAA Community Outreach Grants. Three of our chapters (Arizona, Grand Canyon, and Luke Chapters) recently received grants with a cumulative total of \$12,500
- MOAA Newsletter. As of 1 May 2022, only 80% of all chapter members in Arizona were opted in to receive the MOAA Newsletter. I encourage all members to opt-in to remain current on MOAA news and – especially that dealing with MOAA's advocacy mission at federal and state levels
- MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Strategic Goals
 - Increase overall chapter membership, emphasizing younger members
 - Strengthen and grow our virtual chapters
 - National MOAA support for revenue generation, advocacy tools, membership recruiting and retention, leader succession, communications, administration and technical assistance, and leadership development
 - Share best practices across the affiliate network
 - Strengthen affiliate legislative advocacy to maintain legislative influence in every state



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• Chapter Challenges, Training Desires, and Priorities. Prior to the meeting I asked all chapter presidents to let me know three things: their single #1 challenge; their top three training desires; and their top priority for a topic of discussion at the meeting. Here are the responses:

- #1 Challenge (# responses)

- Filling Board/Leader Positions (7)
- Recruiting Younger Members (2)
- Keeping Members Engaged (1)

- Training Desires

- Recruit/Retain (Younger Members) (4)
- Social Media (2)
- Fundraising / Grants (2)
- Community Engagement
- Public Relations
- Programs
- Surviving Spouse



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- Personal Affairs
- Workshops for New Presidents
- Committee Module
- Treasurer / Financial Awareness
- MOAA info to Leaders/Members
- Deal with State/Fed Legislators
- Priority Topic
 - Recruiting Younger Members (3)
 - Increased Active Duty Engagement (MOAA national effort)
 - Market MOAA – statewide campaign
 - Programs
 - Member Engagement
 - Surveys
 - Fundraising
 - How to be Successful Chapter



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Please check out the **Topics of Interest** section in this newsletter for some information and guidance addressing our chapters' pressing challenges. I hope the above information is helpful. In closing, I ask just two things of our chapter presidents:

- 1) Please share the information in this newsletter with all your chapter leaders and members; the easiest way is to simply forward this newsletter to all your members and share the link to our Council's website: <https://www.azcouncilofchapters.org/>
- 2) Invite me to your chapter meetings so I can meet your members and share all things MOAA!

Peter Kloeber
AZCOC President



Legislative Chair *Page 1 of 6*

- MOAA' s Key Goals for 2022
 - Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees
 - Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown
 - Protect the value of the military health care benefit
 - Protect the Military Health System (MHS) pharmacy benefit and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays
 - Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges
 - Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs
 - Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard and Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts
 - Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services



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- Reform the presumptive process to support Veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible
- Improve survivors' benefits
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to Veteran status for all servicemembers
- For additional details click: [MOAA - Protecting Pay, COLA, and TRICARE Top MOAA' s 2022 Legislative Priorities](#)
- Advocacy in Action (AiA) Update
 - 2022 wrap-up [MOAA - Advocacy in Action 2022: What's Next for 3 Key Issues](#)
 - Nationally, 535 congressional offices were contacted (11 in Arizona), over 7,500 letters/messages were sent (415 from Arizona), and 235 in-person/video meetings were held (11 in Arizona)
 - AiA had three Key Subjects related to Active Duty, Retirees, and Military Community: Military Pay Raise, Major Richard Star Act (HR1282/S344), and Stop the Copay Overpay Act (HR 4824)



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- MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide. To see how Arizona compares with other states for Taxes, Military Retirement Pay, and Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) click here [MOAA - MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide](#)
- Arizona 55th Legislature, Second Session Convened 10 Jan 2022 (AZCOC Supported Legislation)
 - There was clearly no appetite for legislation to fix Income tax parity for Active Duty USPHS and NOAA personnel; we have reached out to UAV for their support in the next Legislative session
 - Disabled veterans' property tax exemption will require a change to the State Constitution. Legislation needs to be passed, along with a resolution to put the measure on the ballot for the voters to weigh in. Senator JD Mesnard was nominated for and awarded the United Arizona Veterans (UAV) Copper Shield Award for his continuing efforts to pass legislation to increase property tax exemptions for disabled Veterans.
 - The following bills have been signed by Governor Ducey
 - SB1115 In-state Student Status, Veterans
 - SB1212 Continuation of Veterans Services Department & Veterans Commission
 - SB1406 Excused Military Absences, High Education



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- SB1468 Occupational Therapy Licensure
- HB2062 Military; Purple Heart; VLT Exemptions
- HB2823 Tuition Waiver, Veterans
- HB2010 to Amend HOA Statute to allow Space Force flag
- SB1170 G&F; tags; permits; voter registration
- Bills still before the Arizona Legislature*
 - Scheduled for third read in the House 31 May 2022, and is expected to pass
 - Disabled veterans' property tax exemption bills still alive as of this writing
 - SB1095 Property Tax Exemptions; Statutory Conformity
 - SCR1011 Constitutional Property Tax Exemptions
 - HCR2017 Constitutional Property Tax Exemption, Consolidation
 - HCR2027 Corresponding HCR with HB2665
- * To follow the status of these Bills, click here: [Bill Status Inquiry \(azleg.gov\)](https://www.azleg.gov/bills-status)



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- Grassroots Support. What can I do to cause change?
 - All politics are local! Know your representatives - Meet them.
 - Meet with your representative when they are home
 - Attend the town halls
 - Know the local staffers
 - Respond to MOAA calls for advocacy.
 - Contact info links: [Find My Legislator \(azleg.gov\)](https://www.azleg.gov)
- Going Forward
 - 2023 State Legislative Session on Convenes 9 Jan 2023
 - Veterans Caucus Meeting 25 Apr 2022, Co-Chairs Rep. Andrade, and Rep. Blackman plan to reintroduce bills that failed in 2022 all thought both co-chairs are running for different offices in the upcoming election.
- Redistricting is Required Every Ten Years (Results of 2020 Census)
 - Due to the tremendous growth in Arizona, the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) →



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made massive changes to the State Legislative Districts and Congressional Districts the IRC was required to create Districts that have the same population.

- To find the legislative district you live in, click here: [AZ IRC Official Legislative Map \(arcgis.com\)](#) and enter your address and zip code in the spaces provided in the upper left corner

Darren Venters

AZCOC Legislative Chairman



Treasurer

Council finances continue to be healthy. We were given two grants to cover renewing ZOOM, reimbursing travel, and helping to provide support for our semiannual meetings. Since all of those activities are becoming more common place as in-person events, we should begin to see some drawdown of our finances over the coming year. Notwithstanding, our balance should continue to be sound throughout 2022, and we should be in a very good position to begin 2023. The Council's budget will be presented and voted upon at the Nov meeting.

Charlie Bitner
AZCOC Treasurer



Secretary

Council Officers and Staff, Chapter Presidents and Satellite President – Part of my responsibility as council secretary is to maintain a master roster for the council. This roster lists the council officers, staff, past council presidents, chapter presidents and satellite president and the officers for all the chapters and satellite.

I need your help to make sure that the roster always contains the correct updated information. If you have a change of address, phone number or email, please make sure to send me the change. Chapter Presidents and Satellite President, please send me any changes to officer positions, as well as any address, phone number or email changes for any of your officers listed on your roster.

At all council meetings, I pass around the master roster and ask for updates or changes. After the council meeting, I update the master roster with the updates and changes I received at the meeting and then send out the master roster to the Council Officers and Staff, Chapter Presidents and Satellite President.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the master roster up-to-date. Thank you.

Pam Wojtas

AZCOC Secretary



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 1 of 6

- Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Update
 - Membership still growing, with 177 members from 35 states
 - The chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month
 - Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas.
 - In Apr 2022 the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter started a quarterly online newsletter
 - We invite our members to get involved by sending information that you would like shared with our group. Please send an email to the MSSVC02@gmail.com address – be sure to include the word “NEWSLETTER” in the Subject Line
- Surviving Spouse Summit. The Surviving Spouse Summit was the highlight of the year as well as a new endeavor for us. The Summit, held during the MOAA annual meeting in Oct in Arlington, VA. Over 75 surviving spouses, spouses, and military members attended the inaugural two-hour event that featured five panelists who spoke about relevant issues. It was a huge success and something we plan to build on for future events.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 2 of 6

- Caring for Survivors Act - S976/HR3402
 - This important legislation would raise DIC to the same levels as other federal survivor programs, boosting DIC to 55% of the compensation of a 100% disabled veteran, up from the current 43%
 - The bill would also reform the so-called “10-year rule,” which prohibits survivors from receiving DIC if a 100% disabled service member dies of a non-service-connected injury less than 10 years after receiving that disability rating, resulting in affected survivors’ benefits starting earlier and being graduated up to the 10-year amount
 - Your help is needed in getting co-sponsors for these bills
 - You are asked to call, email or write your district representatives and state senators
 - You may also log on to the MOAA.org webpage and go to the [Legislative Action Center](#) to voice your support
 - As of this writing, only Representatives Raul Grijalva and Ruben Gallego from the house are onboard and neither Arizona Senator has signed on yet



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 3 of 6

- Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act S2533/HR4794
 - Per the VA's most recent budget summary, fewer than half of VA's women patients received gender-specific care in Fiscal Year 2020 - these numbers are particularly low (13%) for senior women veterans who are at the highest risk of certain gender-specific cancers, including breast cancer. In addition, only about 79% of VA's medical centers had a full or part-time breast health coordinator, which can hamper access to community mammography services. These findings suggest the need for a more strenuous breast health effort in the VA.
 - The MAMMO Act was created to improve mammography services for veterans. This bill would require the VA to develop a strategic plan for breast imaging services and establish a tele-mammography pilot program in states without VA mammography services and in locations where the provision of such services is not feasible. The bill would also require VHA to upgrade all mammography equipment to three-dimensional imaging and to study the availability of genetic testing for the breast cancer gene for veterans. These requirements, in addition to studies and increased partnerships with designated providers within the National Cancer Institute network and the DoD should help improve access to high-quality breast cancer care for all women veterans.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 4 of 6

- Survivors Burial Benefit Information
 - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers survivors a burial benefits kit as a source of pre-need planning information and record storage for Veterans and their families. This kit is intended to be used as a supplement to the Summary of VA Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits Pamphlet 1.
 - The VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit gives a description of each burial benefit, instructions on how to apply, and where to go to get assistance. The kit covers:
 - Pre-need eligibility for National Cemetery burial or memorialization
 - Memorial or burial flags
 - Government headstones or markers
 - Medallions
- More information can be found at:
 - https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits
 - https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/Planning_Legacy_Booklet.pdf



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 5 of 6

- VA Fiduciary Program

- The purpose of the VA Fiduciary Program is to protect veterans and beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits through the appointment and oversight of a fiduciary
- If you have been determined unable to manage your VA benefits, the VA will conduct a field examination to appoint a fiduciary to assist you
- Contact your local VA for more information

- Help for Caregivers

- The Elizabeth Dole Foundation has created a new program, Respite Relief for Military and Veteran Caregivers, which offers family caregivers of veterans or service member's access to free, short-term relief with the help of in-home care professionals
- The program offers 35 hours annually of free respite care. Respite relief services include exercise, meals, housekeeping, transportation, companionship, mobility, medication reminders, and bathing
- You can fill out an application online at <https://hiddenheroes.org/find-help/respite/apply/>
- If you need any additional information or have any questions, please contact the Elizabeth Dole Foundation or call 202-249-7170



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 6 of 6

- Websites for Help and Information
 - MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Group. This group has over 600 members and provides updated information on important surviving spouse issues, especially regarding the Surviving Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset
 - DIC Surviving Spouses and Friends encourages participation and support among our members, most of whom are DIC recipients. We try to provide information on all benefits and/or benefits changes as we learn about them, as well as on other related matters of general interest to our group. We welcome all surviving military spouses and those who advocate for them.
- For questions or comments, please email me at Sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com or call me at 928-632-5939

Sharon Douglas

AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison



Personal Affairs Officer Page 1 of 3

It seems that every few days now there's a segment on our favorite news show about someone falling prey to a new form of phone scam, cyber threat, or identity theft. The latter is the topic of this edition's personal affairs section and while there is much more on the topic that we all need to know, the purpose of what is presented here is to simply convey that we all have exploitable aspects of our finances and that any one of us could be the subject of the next tragic "cautionary tale" on the news.

Note: The following is just a small excerpt of <https://www.usa.gov/identity-theft> (a website dedicated to educating us on proper identification, reporting, and most importantly, prevention of identity theft).

- Identity Theft

- Identity (ID) theft happens when someone steals your personal information to commit fraud.
- The identity thief may use your information to apply for credit, file taxes, or get medical services. These acts can damage your credit status and cost you time and money to restore your good name.

- Warning Signs of ID Theft. You may not know that you've experienced ID theft immediately. You could be affected by ID theft if you receive:

- Bills for items you didn't buy



Personal Affairs Officer *Page 2 of 3*

- Debt collection calls for accounts you didn't open
- Denials for loan applications
- Potential Victims of ID Theft
 - Anyone can experience identity theft. Children and seniors are both vulnerable to ID theft. Child ID theft may go undetected for many years. Victims may not know until they're adults, applying for their own loans.
 - Seniors often share their personal information with doctors and caregivers. The number of people and offices that access seniors' information put them at risk.
- Types of ID Theft. There are several common types of identity theft that can affect you:
 - [Tax ID theft](#) - Someone uses your Social Security number to falsely file tax returns with the IRS or your state.
 - [Medical ID theft](#) - Someone steals your Medicare ID or health insurance member number. Thieves use this information to get medical services or send fake bills to your health insurer.
 - [Unemployment ID theft](#) - Someone uses your personal information to claim (and receive) unemployment benefits.



Personal Affairs Officer Page 3 of 3

In closing, many (if not most) of us grew up in the era where our country came to the realization that simply closing our unlocked doors when we left the house was not enough to secure our belongings while we were away, and just like those belongings, our identities—and all that stems from them—will be in the hands of criminals if we don't take active measures to protect them.

John Chernoski

AZCOC Personal Affairs Officer



Chapter Development

- The primary goal is to form new chapters
- New satellite chapters must be initiated by a host chapter in the catchment area
- Prospective satellite chapters need a strong nucleus of energetic and dedicated people - Grand Canyon Chapter is a perfect example of successful Satellite to Chapter transition
- Support and nurturing for new satellite chapters continually important
- Recruiting new members is essential
 - Make effective use of the Near Real Time (NRT) list
 - Encourage word of mouth advertising by members
- Current Satellite Chapter Status
 - Catalina Mountains Satellite (host Tucson Chapter): 62 Members
 - Strong leadership, good meeting attendance, energetic/active
 - Ready to advance...if and when leadership and members so desire

Ron Perkins/Dick Jonas

AZCOC Chapter Development Committee



Transition Liaison Page 1 of 3

- What is a Transition Liaison (TL)?
 - A TL is the successor to the former The Officer Placement Service (TOPS)
 - This program was established to provide all MOAA members and their Spouses with another venue for job research and placement
 - The mission of MOAA TL is to compile, publicize, and disseminate job opportunities via its network of industry, MOAA chapters, military leaders, veteran service organizations, and other MOAA stakeholders
 - In Summary, the MOAA TL mission is to provide Professional Guidance and Support for MOAA Members & Spouses in Job Transition
- What is the AZ TL?
 - The AZ TL Organization is comprised of 40+ business and industry executives and other professionals who routinely provide notices of job opportunities in their areas to post to the former MOAA TOPS1 database
 - MOAA TL AZ is an arm of National MOAA that serves the AZ community
 - MOAA AZ operates a [website](#) for posting information of interest to our stakeholders



Transition Liaison Page 2 of 3

- If you have information you want to share, send it to me and I will have it posted on the website
- TL Services Provided
 - Provide local networking contacts for MOAA members and spouses in job/career transition
 - Each chapter is viewed as a primary career and geographic resource
 - Each Chapter provides needed “sponsor” assistance
 - Provide Job Listings on the website for access to the membership
 - Provide career related links and information for the membership in transitioning to civilian workforce as well as pertinent military and retired changes in benefits
 - Provide Career Fair Listings
 - Serve the membership with Networking Contacts
- National Resources Available
 - MOAA Career Center Website: www.moaa.org/careers
 - Linked In (Join MOAA Career Networking Group)



Transition Liaison Page 3 of 3

- Arizona Resources Available
 - Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide
 - Arizona MOAA Website: moatopsaz.org
- AZCOC TL Contact Information (John Chernoski): jchernoski@cox.net / Cell: 520-204-3933

John Chernoski

AZCOC Transition Liaison



ESGR Liaison *Page 1 of 3*

- Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR). What's in it for the Servicemember?
 - Employer Outreach. Promote a culture where all employers support and value military service through education, recognition, and mediation
 - Military Outreach. Make servicemembers aware of their rights and responsibilities under the law and the value of employer support and recognition
 - Employment Services. Increase career opportunities through strategic relationships with employers, state and Federal partners, and professional associations
 - Ombudsman Services. Provide informal, neutral mediation for issues/ conflicts between employers and servicemembers before they escalate
- Service Member Responsibilities
 - Provide advanced notice to employer (verbal or written)
 - Leave a civilian job for fulfillment of military obligations
 - If on extended active duty, receive a qualifying military separation (served honorably)
 - Serve for no more than five cumulative years away from the workplace, excluding exceptions



ESGR Liaison *Page 2 of 3*

- Notify employer of intent to return to work in accordance with USERRA guidelines
- Employer Responsibilities
 - Allow military leave of absence
 - Reinstatement employee promptly
 - Restore employee seniority
 - Reinstatement employment benefits
 - Provide training or refreshing of skills
 - Do not discriminate or retaliate
- Servicemember Protections
 - The Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a Federal statute that protects Service members' and veterans' civilian employment rights.
 - An employer must not deny initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment to an individual on the basis of his or her membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the Uniformed Services.



ESGR Liaison *Page 3 of 3*

- Among other things, under certain conditions, USERRA...
 - Requires employers to put individuals back to work in their civilian jobs after military service.
 - Restores employees who engage in military service to the same level of seniority, status, and pay ordinarily attained if they were not called up for military service.
 - Protects Service members from discrimination in the workplace based on their military service or affiliation.
- ESGR Employer Awards

[Service Member Patriot Award](#)

[Seven Seals Award](#)

[Pro Patria Award](#)

[SecDef Employer Support Freedom Award](#)

[Spouse Patriot Award](#)

[Above and Beyond Award](#)

[Extraordinary Employer Support Award](#)

John Chernoski

AZCOC ESGR Liaison



Topics of Interest Page 1 of 8

Even though we covered many topics at our recent State Council Spring meeting and reported on many of them in this newsletter, there are a few topics that deserve special/added emphasis for our chapter leaders. Below are a few such topics that provide essential information and guidance:

- Roundtable Sessions. Our Arizona State Council started conducting virtual Roundtables for chapter presidents two years ago in June 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The purpose was to maintain communications with chapters and provide an opportunity to discuss/provide guidance on common questions/items of concern. MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs stated conducting similar Roundtable sessions for councils and chapters one year later in July 2021 for a similar purpose. These Roundtable continue today and provide an excellent training/education platform for chapter leaders. We encourage all chapter presidents to attend when possible. Here are the schedules (login details will be provided ahead of each session):
 - AZCOC Virtual Roundtables (Zoom platform): 3rd Friday each month at 10:00 AM (1-hour max)
 - MOAA Roundtables (Microsoft Teams platform): Last Thursday each month at 4:00 PM
- The MOAA Newsletter (TMN). Another excellent way to stay informed on MOAA news and events is to read TMN each week – Thursday mornings. Unfortunately, 204 (20%) of our →



Topics of Interest Page 2 of 8

chapter members in Arizona are not opted-in to receive TMN. It is easy for our members to do so – go to the following link, enter their email, and select the desired topics and frequency:

http://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx

- Chapter Membership. As of 1 May 2022, total membership for our nine chapters was 1,019 which is a reduction of 28 (-3%) members since May 2021, 79 (-7%) members since May 2020, and 122 (-11%) members since May 2019. Unfortunately, we are going in the wrong direction – even though there are over 8,000 MOAA members in Arizona who do not yet belong to a chapter.

We need to emphasize recruitment – especially younger members! Some thoughts on Generational Recruiting and Retention:

- Relevant, accessible programming
- Relatable, welcoming chapter members
- Younger generation wants to DO something; make a difference
- Consult with target demographic
- Former officers often join for camaraderie
- MOAA Membership. All nine chapters remain above the 95% threshold for members



Topics of Interest Page 3 of 8

belonging to national MOAA. The total for all chapters remained at 99%. Two chapters are at 100%, but this is down from the previous number of five. We are doing well...but can do better. Using the Committee Module, it is easy to determine non-MOAA members – and then work with/encourage them to join MOAA national (Refer to the “MOAA Member Benefits” at the end of this section).

- Leadership Succession. Prior to the Spring Council meeting, seven of our nine chapter presidents said “Leadership Succession” was their number one challenge – getting chapter members to fill leader positions. Here are some tips:

- Review present bylaws/fill critical positions first
- Review current term limits
- Consider “Fleet Up” or “Move Up” model with a deep bench (e.g., 2 VP to 1 VP, 1 VP to Pres)
- Generate interest in leadership positions well before nominations
- Identify potential candidates during normal course of business
- Groom and mentor potential leaders and get them involved in a chapter committee
- Be inclusive and proactive in including surviving spouse members and spouses



Topics of Interest Page 4 of 8

- Develop a chapter operations handbook
- Have an active awards/recognition program
- Chapter Operations. Below are two checklists from MOAA that may assist chapters and leaders:
 - Chapter Checklist
 - Have a stated and known mission
 - Officer familiarity with the MOAA website and P&P Guide
 - Subscribe to the MOAA newsletter
 - Proactively address renewals
 - Have a succession plan
 - Regularly submit awards nominations
 - Update CM roster and check NRT monthly
 - Use existing technology/tools
 - Publish a printed and/or electronic newsletter
 - Have a well-maintained website and social media presence



Topics of Interest Page 5 of 8

- Regularly engage with Council and national CCA
- Regularly attend offered training
- Engage in community service and advocacy activities
- Engage with other MSO's/VSO's/Coalitions/Chamber of Commerce
- New Leader's Checklist
 - Review the Policies and Procedures Guide in its entirety
 - Familiarize yourself with the contents of the council and chapter page of the moaa.org website
 - Be a national MOAA member (or the spouse of a national MOAA member)
 - Be opted-in to receive communications from national MOAA, to include the TMN and C&C content
 - Ensure the electronic roster is updated with new affiliate officers upon installation
 - Ask for a New President's package from MOAA National if you haven't received one
 - Watch the recordings of the last Leaders Workshop, Round Tables and other leader training opportunities



Topics of Interest Page 6 of 8

- Advocacy and Redistricting

- Do you know who you will be voting for on next election. Check your County Records web site, verify your Voter registration and see what Legislative and Congressional District you are in.
- As a result. Of redistricting. Every legislative district and Congressional District in Arizona. has been changed. The same numbers are in use BUT they define different areas in the State. For instance, I was in Legislative District 2 and Congressional District 8 now I am in LD19 and CD6.
- The effective dates for the changes occurred earlier this year, but the first time it directly impacts you will be 2 Aug 2022, election.
- As you can imagine, with over seven million residents, updating ZIP codes, and District codes is a massive undertaking. AZCOC assignment of chapters to CD and LD's will be updated after the November General Election. Some websites are better than others. Here are two examples:

- Find Your Representative | house.gov
- Simplified District Locator | Citizens Clean Elections Commission (azcleelections.gov)

- Chapter Governance and Compliance

- Eight of our Arizona chapters are incorporated in Arizona and have received tax exempt →



Topics of Interest Page 7 of 8

status from the IRS. All chapters should have, follow, and periodically review their pertinent governance documents: Arizona incorporation documents, IRS tax exempt status, MOAA charter, bylaws, annual tax returns (990s), etc. One specific item covered during our Spring Council meeting was the requirement for all veterans’ charities organizations to register with the state of Arizona. Here is the link to the website and policies:

<https://azsos.gov/business/veterans-charities-organizations>

- The actual form is very simple and needs a Notary. The registration statement must be accompanied by a tax document from a previous year. Only an IRS 990-EZ, the first two pages of a 990, or an IRS determination letter are acceptable.
- MOAA Member Benefits

Benefits <i>(Continued Overleaf)</i>	Basic	Premium <i>(Better Value)</i>	Life <i>(Best Value)</i>
Legislative News Updates & Advocacy Efforts	◆	◆	◆
MOAA Newsletters	◆	◆	◆



Topics of Interest Page 8 of 8

Benefits	Basic	Premium <i>(Better Value)</i>	Life <i>(Best Value)</i>
Chapter & Council Membership & Involvement	◆	◆	◆
Exclusive Discounts on Products & Travel	◆	◆	◆
Access to Member Books & Guides		◆	◆
Financial Education & Consumer Advice		◆	◆
Scholarships, Interest-free Loans & Grants		◆	◆
Expert Advice on Military Pay & Benefits		◆	◆
Career Transition Resources		◆	◆
Subscription to Military Officer Magazine & Exclusive Publications		◆	◆
Spouse Protection			◆



AZCOC Meeting Information

- Fall 2022: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 4 Nov 2022 with a social/or dinner the evening prior on 3 Nov. Location: TBD due to scheduled renovations at the Colonnade in Surprise, AZ
- Spring 2023: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 5 May 2023 with a social/or dinner the evening prior on 4 May. Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ



Photo Gallery

Photo Gallery images provided by Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, Nicholas Knight, & National MOAA



**AZCOC Meeting
3 May 2019**



**AZCOC Meeting
7 May 2021**



**Arizona State
Veterans Home
(Yuma)**



**National MOAA
LOE Presentation
15 Oct 2021**



**AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2019**



**AZCOC Meeting
6 May 2022**

MOAA National, State Councils, and Chapters are independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations.



Helpful Links Page 1 of 2

- [AZCOC Chapter Position Responsibilities Guide](#)
- [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)
- [MOAA National Homepage](#)
- [MOAA Publications](#)
- [MOAA Councils and Chapters](#)
- [MOAA TOPS Arizona](#)
- [Opt-in for the MOAA Newsletter](#)
- [MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide](#)
- [Arizona Department of Veterans Services \(AZDVS\)](#)
- [Arizona Be Connected](#)
- [Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society \(AVHOFS\)](#)
- [AVHOFS Copper Sword / Copper Eagle Nomination Criteria and Forms](#)



Helpful Links Page 2 of 2

- [Unified Arizona Veterans \(UAV\)](#)
- [Veterans Administration Regional Office - Phoenix VA Medical Center - Phoenix](#)
- [State Veterans Home - Tucson](#)
- [State Veterans Home - Phoenix](#)
- [Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System \(Tucson VA Medical Center\)](#)
- [Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System \(Prescott VA Hospital\)](#)
- [Arizona Military Family Relief Fund](#)
- [VA Benefits Administration Links](#)
- [How to obtain a copy of DD-214 on the Internet](#)
- [Veterans Asbestos and Mesothelioma](#)



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Council Member Directory *Page 1 of 2*

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Council Member Directory *Page 2 of 2*

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