

# AZ Council of Chapters

**Date:** August 2011

**President:** Col Ken Yamanouchi



## **President's Message**

Our next meeting on 3 November 2011 will be hosted by the Tucson Chapter at the Radisson Hotel. It will begin at 0900 and end NLT 1400 with a break for lunch. On 2 November, the Tucson Chapter will be holding its regular dinner meeting to which we are invited: cocktails, 1830; dinner, 1900; and speaker, 2000, who will be Lt Col Edward Marvin, USAF Ret, National Board member who serves on the Council & Chapter Affairs and Investment Committees. COL Joey Strickland, Director of AZ Dept of Veterans Services will attend also and provide us with his semiannual report.

**Purpose:** To help each other strengthen our chapters through membership growth and insure leadership succession through sharing of information.

**Membership.** Three of our chapters have had success recruiting under the GMT program. Ed Mangan from the Superstition Mountain Chapter assisted by the Arizona & Luke Chapters represented us at the National Guard Convention held in May at the same time we were meeting. Nineteen new members were recruited for five of our chapters. Thank you Ed! I asked for a goal of 6% net growth at our

meeting and trust this goal is being achieved/exceeded.

The Northern Arizona Chapter is considering a Flagstaff Satellite. It's another way to grow membership.

FYI, Al Bridwell of Luke Chapter worked 45 pages containing 1,471 names of national MOAA members: 858 or 58% had no phone listed or invalid numbers. He called/contacted the remainder and learned 55 had no interest, 15 interested, and 46 wanted more information, another way of saying no? A rather disappointing low yield for time consuming work. We need to work smarter by keeping good records, eliminating past contacts, screening by age, area codes outside of our immediate areas. Luke is planning on inviting potential members to their Oct dinner meeting and putting on a full court press.

To sustain membership growth, we need good programs, climate of camaraderie, and shared values in the mission of each chapter. People must feel valued.

**Increasing Visibility.** Please continue our support of our troops, communities, scholarship programs, and let our membership & potential members know of our accomplishments.

Please continue your efforts in cementing relations with our elected officials. At our May meeting, we reaffirmed our assignments. Please see Gene Fenstermacher's article for use as talking points.

**ESGR & TOPS.** Please see Kelly Galvin's article which supports the need to establish a "speaker's bureau" and helps achieve visibility and our quantifiable goals.

**Leadership Succession.** Nothing replaces the President asking individuals personally for help. The nominating committee and board can help identify potentials, but the President needs to do the asking. It's easier to say "no" to a nominating committee, more difficult to say no to a President who articulates his/her vision and how the individual being approached fits in.

**Auxiliary.** I learned that Pat Shecter has moved to Texas. We thank her for her involvement and contributions. Chapter Presidents are asked to consider inviting their Auxiliaries on their boards to attend our meeting with the thought of one of them replacing Pat on AZCOC.

Finally, I'm looking forward to our next meeting. Our Presidents will have just attended the MOAA meeting in San Antonio, TX and I will be anxious to learn how we were recognized. We are the first and only State Council to have 100% of chapters achieve Awards of Excellence. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and look forward to seeing you in Tucson.

by: COL Ken Yamanouchi

## **Legislative Affairs**

**Council and Chapter leaders are urged to advocate for the following three key issues in personal and Email contacts with our legislators this Fall:**

**\* protecting our troops and their families from budget-driven cutbacks**

Urge them to make it a priority to protect military and veteran families from negative fallout from the continued political haggling over how to pay the nation's bills. For the last decade of conflict, and over previous decades of hot and cold wars, the country has never put any limit on the extreme sacrifices required of members in uniform and their families. In deciding which of its bills must be paid, there should be no higher priority than keeping a

reciprocal commitment to military and veteran families. And should legislation to reduce the deficit be enacted, defense cuts must not come on the backs of those who already have borne 100% of the nation's wartime sacrifice.

**\* resisting the undermining of crucial military career incentives**

Urge them to ensure ongoing deficit-reduction efforts as a result of the "debt deal" don't undermine core career retention incentives such as military retirement and health care that are essential to sustain a top-quality all-volunteer force. The last decade of war has only reconfirmed the extraordinary demands and sacrifices imposed on those who serve a career in uniform. Retention already will be at risk when the economy recovers and unemployment returns to more normal levels. The retirement and health care package is the primary reason retention has been sustained through these difficult times. Civilianizing the military benefit package simply will not work, because military service conditions can never be civilianized. Congress must ensure ongoing deficit reduction initiatives don't undermine long-term national security by devastating these vital incentives for career military service.

**\* stopping the near 30 percent cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors**

Urge them to act promptly to reverse the projected 28% cut in Medicare and military TRICARE payments to doctors that will occur 1 Jan 2012 unless Congress changes current law. Access to quality care is the #1 healthcare problem faced by members of the military community. Deployed troops shouldn't have to worry whether their doctor will refuse to see their sick spouse or child because of these large payment cuts. Congress must reverse the 28% cut for 2012 and fix the statutory formula that keeps causing these recurring annual healthcare threats.

**Grassroots support is need on each of these key issues. Visit your legislators in their district offices or in town halls at every opportunity, and let them know your and MOAA's concerns. And be alert and respond to Action Alerts on these issues in our weekly Legislative Updates.**

By: COL Gene Fenstermacher

## **Personal Affairs**

Each Arizona Chapter of MOAA should have a Personal Affairs Committee or Officer appointed by their Board of Directors. These individuals should focus on educating their membership on the importance of maintaining a complete and concise record of their personal affairs (especially as it relates to their military service).

The Chapter Personal Affairs Officer (PAO) should have the information, the guidance and materials they need to carry out their responsibilities in providing assistance to members and their spouses to help them understand and access the benefits they are entitled to receive. The PAO should also have the knowledge to assist the spouse or next of kin of a deceased member negotiate the survivor benefits process.

Chapter Personal Affairs officers should hold an annual "Personal Affairs" workshop to help in the education of their members. A Personal Affairs workshop should consist of 3 phases. 1) The Planning Phase (before the crisis), 2) The Action Phase (during the crisis) and 3) The Follow up Phase (after the crisis). A great resource to use for this workshop is MOAA's publication "Help your Survivors Now" and should include having them complete the enclosed "Personal Affairs Workbook".

The Personal Affairs officer can find a list of materials needed in the MOAA Council and Chapters "Policy and Procedures" booklet, Appendix J. They can obtain a reference copy of each of these materials by calling MOAA 1-800-234-6622. Each Chapters PAO should

maintain a library of pertinent personal affairs publications from MOAA, the VA and local Military bases. They should also maintain a database of addresses and phone numbers for their local Casualty Assistance office, Finance center (for each service), the VA and Social Security office.

The AZ Council of Chapters Personal Affairs Director will gladly assist any chapter, which would like help, to adapt the recommended programs to fit their chapters individual needs. If you have any questions or would like any assistance in developing or improving your Personal Affairs section please contact Maj Steven Abel at [stevenabel8@msn.com](mailto:stevenabel8@msn.com) .

by: Maj Steven Abel

## **The Power of Networking**

Whether it's Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or other networking websites, everyone is networking nowadays. Business networks function as social networks with the primary reason of keeping people in touch with each other in order to facilitate business activity. However, some of the best networking opportunities aren't found on the Internet, but are located in your local community.

Community service organizations like Rotary Club, Lions Club, Elks Lodges and veteran's service organizations like The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and others are also great places to network for mutual benefit. I'd be willing to bet that every Arizona MOAA Chapter has at least one member who also belongs to either a community or veteran's service organization.

Everyone wants to belong to an organization that ACCOMPLISHES something or which has achieved some level of recognition. Why not promote your chapter's newly earned honors as a MOAA Level of Excellence Award winner at your local Rotary Club or Elks Lodge? Many service organizations struggle to find guest speakers for their meetings and might be happy

to have you present. Any time of year is good for a presentation, but presentations given around Veteran's Day, Independence Day or Memorial Day can foster greater good will towards your chapter. You might pick up a new chapter member or two as a result. Who knows? Maybe your briefing will become an annual event.

I would like to suggest that each chapter set a goal of giving one MOAA themed presentation to a local community service or veteran's service organization each calendar year. The presentation might be about your chapter and how it earned its 4 or 5 star award. Another thought would be to give an intro briefing about the TOPS AZ network and invite others to join as networkers. We can make sure you have some of the TOPS AZ information brochures.

by: Capt. Kelly Galvin

## **ESGR**

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense (DoD) agency that seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

The Employment Initiative Program (EIP) is a comprehensive multiple agency program connecting employers with the talented pool of service members and spouses, with the intent of facilitating meaningful employment opportunities.

Employer support allows members of the Guard and Reserve to carry out their mission, and is a direct contribution to our national defense. Whether serving our country or supporting those who do, we all serve.

by: LTC Darren Venters

## **Chapter President's Semi-Annual Reports Due early**

I will be requesting each Chapter President's report early this fall. I would like to receive the completed reports NLT October 10th 2011. The reason for this is twofold, First I will be out of town from Oct 15th until November 2nd and I would like to have all reports compiled and distributed prior to my leaving and second with the National MOAA meeting the end of October you will be pressed for time. I will be sending out the blank report template and reminder in mid September for your completion.

I want to thank everyone in advance for your cooperation in helping me keep everything on tract for our November 3rd Council meeting.

Maj Steven Abel  
Council Secretary