

AZ Council of Chapters MOAA

Date: August 2012

President: Col Ken Yamanouchi



President's Message

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 6 October 2012 at the Cliff Castle Casino in Camp Verde just off I-17. The meeting will be from 0830-1400 with a break for buffet lunch from 1130-1230. We will be joined by members of the Northern Arizona Chapter at lunch and their business meeting will be kept to a minimum. This should permit us to drive home at a reasonable time.

This is my last newsletter as my two year term comes to a close. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Council President. It has been an honor and privilege to work with the outstanding Chapter Leaders of our State.

Because of the outstanding leadership in our State, we were recognized as the first and only State to have all of its Chapters earn Levels of Excellence Awards (LOE) last year. This year, we did even better. Eight Five Star LOE's plus a Council LOE!

The birth of the Grand Canyon Chapter brings our total back up to nine. This significant accomplishment is attributed to the leadership of Pete Kloeber, Jac Morse, and Dick Jonas. Peter's untiring efforts, commitment, and organizational abilities led to this achievement.

As I step down, I am pleased with the overall "health" of our Council. The only area of disappointment is in the area of membership growth which I hope will receive renewed focus of attention.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Ken

Vice-Presidents Report

Headline news for the Council:

Welcome to the Grand Canyon Chapter! All the hard work of Lt Col Richard (Dick) Jonas, USAF, (Ret) and Col Peter (Pete) Kloeber, USAF (Ret) and their staffs resulted in the Ninth Chapter in the State of Arizona! It takes hard work recruiting, organizing, planning, and training to keep a Chapter functioning and an even harder challenge to create a successful Chapter. A Job Very Well Done. I look forward to visiting your Chapter in this upcoming year.

And another Headline – The AZ Council is the **only** Council within MOAA that was awarded a Five-Star Streamer, and with **ALL** Chapters also receiving their Five-Star Streamer! We stand above the Best – and the Rest! That is dedicated leadership.

We have a busy Fall schedule with the National Western Regional meeting in Las Vegas and the Council meeting, hosted by the Northern AZ Chapter. Look forward to joining with the Chapter leadership at both events.

Over the next year, Lucinda and I look forward to visiting your Chapters and exercising our RV – combining with trout fishing where possible.

Our Council is a major presence in our State because of the most respected voice on Capitol Hill by ADM Ryan and our leadership in our communities. We must maintain that presence and through our coordination with our elected representatives, insure that our voice is a known, familiar advocate for support for our Service people and their families.

Best of Luck,
COL Allen Rossow, USA (Ret)
V.P. AZ COC MOAA
alrossow@cox.net
(520) 439-4144

Secretary/Treasurer Report

First I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Ken Yamanouchi, The AZ COC and all 8 AZ MOAA Chapters for receiving their 5 Starr LOE's for 2011. Congratulations to you all for the hard work that led to this outstanding accomplishment. A tremendous achievement by all and this just goes to show what an excellent statewide MOAA community we have.



The next AZ Council of Chapters meeting is scheduled to start at 8:30 am (new start time) at the Cliff Castle Casino & Hotel in Camp Verde, AZ <http://www.cliffcastlecasinohotel.com/> The Council meeting will be held in the Sedona

Room at Cliff Castle and will end NLT 14:00 hrs.

There will be a Buffet Lunch 11:30 to 12:30 pm in the Jerome Room. The lunchtime speaker will be Col Peter Kloeber, President of the newly established Grand Canyon Chapter. The cost for the luncheon is \$25/person. Please mail your checks no later than 15 September to the NACMOAA and send to:

Col Jim Muehleisen,
Treasurer NACMOAA
1460 Eagle Crest Dr.
Prescott AZ 86301-5455

Lodging: No rooms have been blocked, however, when you call them for lodging let them know you're military and they will give you a discount (928-567-6611).

You don't have to stay at Cliff Castle. Google lodging in Camp Verde AZ' for other options. The last I heard there were no single rooms available for the night of the 5th or 6th of Oct at the Cliff Castle Resort (doesn't mean something won't open up) so you may need to stay somewhere other than the Cliff Castle.

If anyone needs a copy of the Council minutes, Treasurer report, etc. from the Spring meeting please let me know and I can send you a copy electronically stevenabel8@msn.com . Speaking of electronic communications I would like to thank all the Chapters for their continued use and support of this endeavor. It has certainly helped expedite communications and saved the council budget on postage and copying fees over the past 2 years.

I will be sending out the Semi-Annual Chapter Presidents reports template this month. I realize everyone is busy and Chapter presidents are preparing for the MOAA West Regional meeting but I would like the reports back by September 21st. This will allow me time to compile and distribute all these reports as well as utilize the membership data to formulate my projected budget prior to the October Council meeting.

Treasurer: In accordance with the AZ COC Bylaws, Article VI, I will present a proposed Council budget for the fiscal year 2013 at the October meeting. Also in accordance with these bylaws the issue of annual membership dues to the council (for 2013) will be brought up for discussion. I we also have an audit of the Council financial records completed and a report prepared by the October Council meeting.

Steven Abel, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Sec/Treasurer AZ COC MOAA

Legislative Affairs

VETERAN LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Hot topics need resolution by this 112th Congress:

1. The President's proposed budget that includes exorbitant changes in TRICARE premiums over the next 5 years and copays and prescription drug copays.

- **Impose Premiums for TRICARE Standard** (up to \$250 per family), and hikes in deductibles, (up to as much as \$580 per family, **a 193% increase**),

- **TRICARE Prime premium hikes** (up to as much as \$2,048 per family, **a 394% increase**),

- **Impose Premiums for TRICARE for Life** (up to as much as **\$475 per individual**)

- **Means testing or tiering of premiums** for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE for life,

- **Mail order and retail pharmacy prescription drug copay increases** from no cost now up to as much as \$9 for Generics, from \$9 now up to as much as \$34 for Brand Names (**a 378% increase**), and from \$25 now up to as much as \$66 for Formularies (**a 264% increase**)

2. "Doc Fix" Legislation: Because of a flawed "Sustainable Growth Rate" (SGR) formula adopted in the balanced budget Act of 1997, and first addressed in 2002 for CY 2003, **scheduled cuts in Medicare and Tricare fees paid to Doctors has been deferred** by Congress annually for the past 10 years.

That cut could be as much or more than 30% beginning 1 Jan 2013 because Congress has refused to address a permanent fix for this problem over the past 10 years. If this happens, **more doctors will refuse to accept Medicare and TRICARE patients.**

BUT THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS - H. R. 1627; "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012". It is a multifaceted bill that in part prohibits disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces. It passed by unanimous consent in the Senate on 18 Jul, was agreed to by voice vote in the House on 31 Aug, and was sent to the President on 3 Aug and was **signed into law on 6 Aug 2012.**

It is now unlawful nationwide for any person to engage in any disrupting activity during the period beginning 120 minutes before and ending 120 minutes after any part of a funeral activity on or near the boundary of the residence, home, or domicile of any surviving member of the deceased person's immediate family; or within the boundaries of the location where a funeral takes place; or within 300 feet of the road, pathway, or other route of ingress to the location of the funeral; and within 500 feet of the boundary of the location of the funeral.

It prohibits willfully and without proper authorization impeding or tending to impede the access to or egress from the funeral location and from willfully making or assisting in the making of any noise or diversion that is not part of such funeral and that disturbs or tends to disturb the peace or good order of such funeral with the intent of disturbing the peace or good order of such funeral.

Gene Fenstermacher, Colonel USAF (Ret)
AZ COC Legislative Affairs Director

AZ TOPS

a. The employment announcements and job/career fairs have been sparse for much of 2012. The trend does appear to be improving as of late July and into August. To offset our usual links, we were able to add additional links to job opening announcements and career fairs. Such links include "Heroes to Hired", Indeed and "azjobconnection" to augment the reduced coverage in other areas of Arizona.

- b. The Arizona TOPS Coordinator responsibility was transferred this year, from Captain (R) Kelly Gavin to CW3 (R) Harry Bowen. The contact address remained unchanged at coord@moaatopsaz.org. Captain (R) Gavin has remained active as the Chapter TOPS Representative/Director for the Sunrise Chapter.
- c. TOPS Coordinators are vital to the success of the various chapters as a “value added” offering. It is recommended that each chapter look to the membership to find someone willing to go out and visit the local companies, make them aware of the benefits of being able to hire dedicated, highly qualified professionals who already have the work discipline necessary for the work force. These professionals do not require, most often, any training and can be expected to “hit the ground running.”

Respectfully,

Harry E. Bowen, Sr. CW 3 (R)
TOPS Coordinator
520-508-2685
harrybowen@aol.com

[Auxiliary](#)

Welcome back and I hope you had a wonderful summer.

In August I had the pleasure of attending the NACMOAA picnic in the Pines at the Navajo pavilion hosted by the new Grand Canyon Chapter. Upon arriving I was met and welcomed by Pete Kloeber, President of Grand Canyon Chapter and introduced to Dick Jonas, President of the No. Az Chapter. I had the opportunity to chat with several members and during lunch shared a table with a group from the Payson Satellite Chapter. After the luncheon Pete announced to everyone present that their chapter was approved by MOAA's Board of Directors for Chapter status on July 16, 2012. They will be known as the Grand Canyon Chapter and

currently have 71 members. Presently they do not have an Auxiliary Liaison but hope to have that position filled later this fall. Afterwards several members went on a tour of the Fort Tuthill Military Museum.

Remember to remind your members that MOAA has many publications to guide you as you put your affairs in order. Those that might be of particular interest to military survivors are the Personal Affairs Action Guide, Turning the Corner and The Survivor's Checklist.

As the years go by we tend to postpone actions along this line. Many don't want to think about it, because it seems like an insurmountable task. Make sure you have a will and try to anticipate probate by adding an executor to your financial accounts in advance. A little preparation in advance will smooth the way families react and handle the stress, and knowing that what you have done will leave a good memory.

Priscilla Clay
Auxiliary Affairs, Director
AZ COC MOAA

[Personal Affairs](#)

National MOAA has published a new interactive publication pamphlet for personal affairs. It is called [Family Matters: A Personal Inventory for Peace of mind](#). This booklet can be found on the National MOAA website, along with other great pamphlets at <http://www.moaa.org/infoexchange/>

The Chapter PA Officer should hold an annual Personal Affairs workshop (held at a monthly meeting) and they should make a special effort to have their members spouse's attend. The spouse's are usually the ones with the most relevant questions that need answering.

The individual Chapters PA Officer should also have a reference library at home to use as guides to help answer questions and use as a resource for helping with survivor benefits. The list of reference material can be found in MOAA's Policy and Procedures manual under appendix J.

The Chapter PAO can call National MOAA at 1-800-234-622 to obtain these copies for their individual personal reference library.

The PA Officer should always send out a survivor package which contains the booklets Survivors checklist, Turning the Corner, TAPS along with a list of local resource phone numbers along with a condolence letter to all survivors when a member passes away. These booklets and phone numbers really **do** help answer survivors questions and help them negotiate the obstacles following the loss of their loved ones.

We have a Personal Affairs page on our Council website that has all these booklets and resource numbers available to your PAO and our members.

<http://azcouncilofchapters.org/personal/personal.htm>

Maj. Steven Abel, USAF, (Ret)
Personal Affairs Director
AZ COC MOAA

[ESGR](#)

Arizona Committee of ESGR

ESGR, US Chamber of Commerce and US Dept. of Labor are conducting Mega Guard, Reserve, and Veteran Hiring events throughout the Country. 400 events are planned for this year. Southern Arizona Hiring our Heroes Career Fairs, will be held in Sierra Vista, Yuma, Nogales, and Tucson on September 27, 2012.

The H2H, Hero 2 Hired, Mobile Job Center toured Arizona with stops in Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix, Tucson, Sierra Vista, and Yuma. www.h2H.jobs is replacing several internet job sites. H2H Aps are available for Android and Apple Smartphone. The H2H Mobile Job Center was showcased at the opening of the Kino Veteran Workforce Center Aug 15 in Tucson. The Mobile Job Center also visited the Air Force Reserve Command Yellow Ribbon and Re-integration event Aug 18 in Oro Valley.

Hiring
our
Heroes
Job
Fair,
Tucson,
AZ
12



JUL 12 was a tremendously successful military hiring event at the American Legion Post 36, Tucson, AZ. We connected 30 employers with 277 job seekers from the Tucson military population. Channel 4 set up a tent in the parking lot and covered the event twice on the evening news. 109 employers and over 400 service members have signed up for the H2H Job Fair in Scottsdale August 21.

ESGR continues to mediate disputes and provide information to Employers and Service Members regarding Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA). So far this year 201 request for information have been handled by telephone in addition to formal complaints.

This year, 663 Arizona employers have signed a “Statement of Support” pledging to support the men and women who give freely of their time to take on the additional obligation to serve as members of the Guard and Reserve.

Two fellow MOAA members were honored recently, Cmdr. John Chernoski received Arizona Outstanding Ombudsman Award for 2012, and Lt Col Darren Venters was named Arizona Military Outreach Coordinator for 2012.

Mr. William Valenzuela, Chairman Emeritus, Arizona Committee ESGR passed away after a very short illness July 8. Bill was the mainstay of the organization for many years. He will be sorely missed by all. The 162nd Fighter Wing flew the “missing man” formation with F16 during Bill’s service.

Mr. Scott Essex, AZ ESGR State Chairman, announced the selection of Mr. Tim Williamson

to be the new Chairman. Mr. Williamson will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Arizona Committee with his numerous business and community connections.

Mr. Williamson's background includes, President of American Steel Corporation, past President and current Board Member of the Phoenix Air National Guard PANG Patriots, member of the 162nd Fighter Wing Minutemen Committee, and a Greater Phoenix YMCA Metro Board Member. Mr. Williamson has a proven record of supporting numerous military and community support organizations. He will assume the duties of the Arizona Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve State Chairman on October 1, 2012.

Lt. Col Darren Venters, USAF (Ret)
ESGR Director
AZ COC

