



## CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 4

April 2009

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### PRESIDENTS NOTES by President Allen Rossow

Please read the article on Board Deliberations (page 5) and our return to dinner meetings.

**April 16th** – Dinner at TMAC: MG Susan Lawrence, Commanding General, NETCOM/9th ASC is on our calendar for the April dinner. However, her travel schedule controls her life and we hope that she will be available. Her deputy, COL(P) LaWarren Patterson will be promoted to Brigadier General on April 24th.

Based on your surveys, we continue to work with TMAC on the service and meals. The new Chef is making great progress and we appreciate their attention and the improvements he has made. This month we offer a choice for our dinner – annotate your reservation form.

Director Black is getting in gear with the annual Scholarship reviews – he has contacted additional high schools in Cochise County this year and has scheduled the interviews. Competition is always intense. We will be awarding six scholarships this year.

**Dues:** January was the dues month! Treasurer Abney is still working on a few members who have misplaced their checks! Hopefully, by now the checks have been found on the car dashboard or we have placed a reminder phone call.

Board meetings have relocated from the Windemere to the Pueblo del Sol club house on the third Wednesday of each month. The decision to move was based on service, food quality, and price. PDS has provided outstanding service in the terrace/patio room for our lunch meetings.

(cont on page 7)



### LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Gene Fenstermacher, Colonel USAF (Ret)

Things are starting to heat up. It looks like the SBP-DIC offset has a fairly good chance of being eliminated this year. And VA issues are receiving some favorable attention, including the one below.

A new regulation has been proposed that would allow the VA to enroll certain Priority Group 8 (PG-8) Veterans in the VA health system. These Veterans would qualify if their household income does not exceed the current VA income thresholds. And this proposed regulation might take effect as early as June 2009.

For Priority Group 8, the 2009 low-to-medium income levels (Financial Income Thresholds for VA Health Care Benefits) would apply for free VA Health Care. For non-service connected disability veterans this ranges from \$29,402 or less for a single Vet to \$35,204 or less with 1 dependent plus \$2,020 for each additional dependent. And the Vets income and net worth must be less than \$80,000. At the State level, thanks to the efforts of many of you, our petitioning was instrumental in stopping another attempt to authorize predatory lending that would adversely affect Veterans and Guard & Reserve personnel when not on active duty. HB 2608; 'small installment loan act' would have permitted exorbitant annual percentage rates on short term loans in an attempt to circumvent the current 36% APR Arizona usury cap on small consumer installment loans. On the weekend of 28 Feb, our petitioning of House Banking and Insurance Committee members was instrumental in the 4-4 tie vote on 2 March that killed that bill.

(cont on page 4)

**BOARD DELIBERATIONS :**  
See **March minutes, coronadomoaa.org**

**Luncheon / Dinner Meetings:** The board of directors has been actively evaluating our current program schedule of lunch and dinner meetings with surveys of member desires and of program and food quality.

A primary rationale for adding luncheon events to our annual program schedule was to attract Active Duty members. That effort has not met with great success and, in fact, has generally resulted in reduced member attendance for the lunch program. There are also active members who are still in the workforce and prefer the dinner format. The Board remains committed to providing events of the greatest interest to the entire membership and has decided that it is time to recognize that the lunch program simply hasn't worked out.

Therefore, at our March meeting, the Board voted to move back to only dinner meetings effective April 16th. We are very aware that some members are concerned about driving after dark, and for those members who prefer not to drive, rides can be arranged by other members or by calling any board member. The May event will also be a dinner meeting.

We have also seriously considered the results of your food quality surveys and are evaluating recent TMAC management changes and food quality improvements that resulted from your comments. We have additionally considered alternative locations and cost factors. While food quality is the priority, cost remains a significant consideration. We'll get back to you before we make any meeting location changes.

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS** (Cont from page 3)  
However, on 3 March I found out that another attempt was going to be made in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on 5 March. This time they tried one of their 'sneaky' ways to move the intent of HB 2608 along through the Legislative process through a "strike everything" bill (HB 2071), where the text of HB 2071 was replaced with basically the text from HR 2608.

When I found that out, I quickly sent another appeal to those on my Legislative Update Email list to now petition the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee members by Email and/or phone calls, urging them to oppose the "strike-everything" bill in their scheduled 5 March meeting. While the bill was on the agenda, some early discussion resulted in the chairman placing the bill in "Held" status because it became clear to him that, do in part to our Emails and phone calls, he would not be able to get a majority vote in favor of the bill. That "Held" action killed the bill and the issue in the House, thanks in part to our state wide petitioning.

There is still a possibility that another attempt will be made to push this along through a "strike-everything" bill in the Senate. I have several Legislators who are watching this, who will alert me if that should surface, at which time we will initiate our petitioning drill again. Keep tuned.

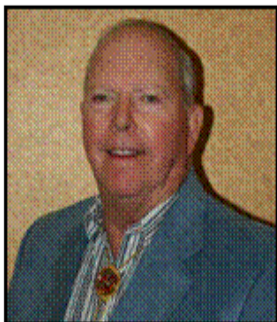
If you are not in my Legislative Updates loop and want to get involved in our Legislature petitioning efforts on Veteran issues, drop me a line at: fensteg@cox.net



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Current Membership (as of Feb 14, 2009) — 257  
Regular Members —225  
Auxiliary Members —30



**PERSONAL AFFAIRS**  
by  
**Col Bob White USMC (Ret)**

The 2009 edition of the benefits guide, "The Military Advantage: A Comprehensive Guide to Your Military

and Veterans Benefits."

This must-have book offers advice, shortcuts and insider tips to help you understand and access all your benefits including:

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**  
by  
**Captain Carl Bromund, USCG, (Ret)**

Our Chapter membership efforts focus on two major customer segments. The first segment includes our current

members; the effort here is focused on retention. The second customer segment includes recruiting of new members. While it is important to continually attract new members, I wanted to recognize the retention efforts over the past several months by Bob Abney and Duane Brofer. Bob and Duane have a system in place to contact folks, collect their dues payments, and update our Chapter records. It's a lot of work and I appreciate their efforts.

We will be following up in the next few weeks with anyone who has not yet renewed their Chapter membership for calendar year 2009. If you would like more information on membership, please contact me at 366-0502 or via email [Cbromund@powerc.net](mailto:Cbromund@powerc.net)


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**Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission**  
by  
**Col Terrie M. Gent, USAF (Ret)**

In an earlier issue of this newsletter, we discussed the role of the Greater Sierra Vista Area United Veterans Council (the UVC) as an advocate for veterans in our part of the county. There is a larger body, though, the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission, that provides state-wide policy advice to the governor and the director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Members of the commission are appointed by the governor and have a statutory term of three years. They may only serve two terms.

We are fortunate because chapter member Tom Dingwall, the Sierra Vista Veterans' Day Parade Marshall in 2008, was the Chairman of the Commission for several years. In 2007, he was joined on the commission by Larry McKim, a vibrant presence in many veteran activities in Sierra Vista. When Tom's last term expired in


(cont on page 6)



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## MOAA Birthdays by Joan Connor

"Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional." Here's some very happy birthday greetings to those celebrating their youth this month. May we always be young at heart. Happy Birthday!

**APRIL:** 2: Ruth Quinn; 3: John Chapman; 6: Allen Rossow; 9: Laurel Manning; 10: Marsha McKinney, Judy Saeger; 11: Harvey Haynes, Robert Hazlett, Ken Symmes; 12: Gene Raymond, 13: Joe Buckler; Drue Joy; 15: James Larsen; 16: Arthur Piper, Nancy Trombley; 17: Elizabeth Blair; 19: Rita Petty; 22: Joan Black, John Marlow; 23: Susan Puttkammer; 24: Diane McDaniel; 25: Thomas Hessler, Peggy Haines, Nancy Phillips; 26: Ronald McCreery; 28: Gail Mortensen; 30: Ann Frieders.

### Veterans' Service Advisory Commission (cont from page 5)

2008, the Air Force Association nominated me and Gov. Napolitano appointed me to the commission.

The commission has a strategic plan. Our first goal is to meet our statutory obligation to advise the governor and the director of ADVS. Our chairman meets with the governor at least once a year and commissioners participate in veteran activities around the state to ensure we are aware of the needs of all veterans. We provide written advice as we feel it is useful to the governor. The Director of ADVS, currently Joey Strickland, attends our monthly commission meetings at the Veterans' Home in Phoenix and shares information and listens to our views. Once a quarter the commission holds an "outreach" meeting where we travel to other parts of the state to ensure that the voices of veterans from every era and every part of the state are heard and their concerns addressed.

We study all the proposed state and federal legislation and state budget provisions that affect veterans. We provide our views about whether these are helpful to veterans, their families, or survivors. The commission also promotes public awareness of the sacrifices and needs of veterans. They take part in a number of veteran gatherings and events around the state. If you have any questions about the commission or need any assistance obtaining veteran benefits, please don't hesitate to contact me at 378-2915 or at TerrieGent@aol.com.

## SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES :(cont)

coronadomoaa.org is on-line! Deputy Director Colberg has done a wonderful job – please visit and give us your feedback.

Our membership numbers remain fairly constant – but each week, I meet a non-member that has lived here for years or has just moved to Sierra Vista. They are out there just for the catching and reeling in!

Have you requested your MOAA Personal Affairs Handbook that Director White discussed? It is a critical and mandatory document to be discussed, completed, and kept in the top drawer. Request yours today!

Mark your calendars for the Historic Soldiers Reinternment ceremony from Tucson to the SA Veteran's Memorial Cemetery on 16 May and also Memorial Day observances on 25 May.

Allen

## Upcoming Events

April 18th — Cultural Diversity Fair, Buena High School — Free to the Public

April 18th — West End Block Party, Arts & Crafts, Food, Games, and good fun

May 16th — Historic Soldiers Relocation Ceremony

May 25th — Warrant Officers Assn, Silver Chapter, hosts Memorial Day Ceremony — Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
6 --7 PM

### We Need Your Help

Each year we must mail out letters requesting dues payments for the new year. Mailing letters takes time, but more importantly, it costs the Chapter more than \$150.00 in postage and printing. This year, we tried sending e-mail notices requesting dues. A substantial number were returned as undeliverable!!!!!!!!!!

We also use email addresses for Gene's Legislative Alerts and for other Chapter notices, such as current issues or breaking events.

We ask that you acknowledge this notice by e-mailing or call Dep Director Duane Brofer at [brabec@cox.net](mailto:brabec@cox.net) ( 378-2732) giving only your name, current telephone number and street address. This will verify your current information and update our database.

We also ask that you continue to assist by sending a simple e-mail to [brabec@cox.net](mailto:brabec@cox.net) whenever you have a change in the future. It would be a huge help to the Chapter to effectively maintain communications with you our membership. Send an e-mail if ---

- (1) you change your mailing address,
- (2) your telephone number, or
- (3) your email address.

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009 DINNER RESERVATION FORM**

**Thunder Mountain Activity Center — Social Hour 1800 — Dinner 1900**

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Check Information

Amount for meal @ \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for Operating Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Check total \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your check prior to May 1, 2009**

Contact person for reservations is Helen Patterson, phone 458-2032, email: [hdpatterson.2006@yahoo.com](mailto:hdpatterson.2006@yahoo.com)

Make check payable to Coronado Chapter, MOAA and mail to: **Reservations, Coronado Chapter, MOAA , P. O. Box 1685, Sierra Vista, AZ. 85636-1685.** (Note on envelope Dinner Reservation or Luncheon Reservation)

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

1. First fill out the form below.
2. If you already belong to National MOAA, then **your first calendar year of chapter membership is free.**  
Regular members - \$15.00 per year after the 1st year  
Associate members - \$10.00 per year
3. If you do not belong to National MOAA or have any questions, contact Allen Rossow at 439-4144 or [alrossow@cox.net](mailto:alrossow@cox.net) for details

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ National MOAA Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle as appropriate: ARMY---AIR FORCE---NAVY---MARINE CORPS---COAST GUARD---NOAA---PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Please circle all that apply: REGULAR--- RESERVE--- NATIONAL GUARD--- FORMER OFFICER---ACTIVE--- RETIRED---

MALE--- FEMALE---WIDOW \_\_\_ WIDOWER \_\_\_

Member Date of Birth: MM \_\_\_\_ / DD \_\_\_\_ / YYYY \_\_\_\_ Spouse Date of Birth: MM \_\_\_\_ / DD \_\_\_\_ / YYYY \_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently a member in good standing with MOAA.

Please mail this form to

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Applicant Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_

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fensteg@cox.net.....378-1471
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**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**BOD MEETING — 11:30 Apr 15**

**BOD MEETING — 11:30 May 20**

**APRIL 16TH — DINNER MEETING**


**MAY 21 — Dinner Meeting**

**MENU: Choice of selections –**  
**Salmon with baked crushed Pecans topped with**  
**Lemon-butter Sauce OR**  
**Champagne Breast of Chicken with Creamy Ar-**  
**tichoke and Mushroom Sauce, Ginger-Honey Baby**  
**carrots, Parsley New Potatoes, Mixed greens salad with**  
**Raspberry or Ranch Dressing, Chocolate Mousse**

**MENU: To be determined**

**PROGRAM: Colonel Greg Rose, SES (Ret), Di-**  
**rector HUMINT Center.**

**PROGRAM: (T) MG Susan S. Lawrence, CG**  
**NETCOM/9th Signal Command (Army)**



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