



CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS NOTES by President Allen Rossow

Director Black has really done a superb job this year, coordinating with the High Schools and Counselors.

As we go to press, we have 19 applications for interviews. Director Trombley has worked to schedule all the interviews. See more in Director Black's column. The awardees and their parents will be invited to join us at the May dinner.

We are contacting a few members for their 2009 dues. Each year the Treasurer and finally the entire Board work to preserve our current membership totals. We remain constant at about 250 current members. There are Chapters that recruit very heavily, to include brand new Lt's in the Basic Officer's Courses. Those efforts are worthwhile for National totals and hopefully those officers will maintain their affiliation with MOAA. We very well may launch that same recruiting effort in the future. BUT, the most rewarding recruitment, is your neighbor, your old friend, the new acquaintance. They are every where!

National Headquarters has launched a renewed effort for Chapters (and State Councils) to maintain contact with our elected Congressional and Senate leaders. Director Fenstermacher has proposed a comprehensive approach for the Arizona Council of Chapters to insure each of our elected representatives know that a MOAA Chapter is in their area and concerned with their support for veteran's issues.

I will be attending the AZ Council of Chapter's meeting in Yuma 15-16 May and urge adoption of this plan.

That same weekend, mark your calendars for the Buffalo Soldier's Re-internment ceremony at the SA Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Gene Fenstermacher, Colonel USAF (Ret)

Retirees and SBP recipients - you may be in for a rude awakening when tax time comes

around next year, if you accept smaller tax withholdings spurred by the 'economic stimulus plan' legislation.

That program reduces federal income taxes by up to \$400 per year for working individuals, via smaller tax withholding (up to \$50/mo for the 8 remaining months of 2009) from their paychecks. The tax withholding reduction applies to "earned income"—by people still earning a paycheck from an employer. They will have their payroll taxes reduced and at the end of the year receive a tax credit for the reduced amount. So they pay fewer taxes now and won't owe the tax later.

HOWEVER, non-working military retirees and survivors are not eligible for this tax reduction, but they too will automatically see the reduced withholding from their retired pay or survivor annuities beginning with their 1 May checks or deposits. For those who have accurately estimated their taxes for 2009, and have taken appropriate action to have their total withholding adjusted to equal the amount they will owe (or at least 90% of their tax liability as required by law), they will be up to **\$400 short** on their withholdings.

To add to the confusion, if you also receive Social Security and/or VA Compensation, you will also receive a one-time lump sum amount of \$250 in one of your monthly checks in the next few months.

(cont on page 7)



Scholarship Selections for 2009 by Col John Black, USA (ret)

The Scholarship Selection Committee, Bob Abney, Paul Weishaaupt, and myself interviewed Chapter scholarship applicants on April 6, 14 and 17. As with last

year's experience, the Selection Committee was impressed by the high quality of all the students we interviewed. They were articulate, of high academic standing, active in a variety of school activities and excellent citizens of their community. All were highly deserving of our scholarships. There were 19 total applications received from high schools in Douglas, Saint David, Sierra Vista, and a home schooled student for our 6 available scholarships. The results of the selection process are outlined below.

The LTC Hans F. Wege Memorial Scholarship:

Cadet Brittany Vowell was selected to receive the Hans F. Wege Scholarship. Brittany has a 4.37 Grade Point Average (GPA) and is ranked sixth out of a graduating class of 562. She has carried a 98% grade in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) classes. Her JROTC activities include the Marksmanship Team, Honor Guard, Color Guard, leadership camps, and service oriented activities such as highway cleanups. She has been active in the National Honor Society, Modern Music Masters, the Denominators, the Key Club, Student Council, the Band, and volunteers tutoring and reading to elementary school children. Her sports have included ballet, gymnastics, swim, dive, soccer, track and tennis. Cadet Vowell has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as the President of the Rotary International sponsored Interact Club, and the Chairperson of the Sierra Vista Youth Commission. Recently, she and a partner took 1st Place in the SSVEC Science Fair by presenting a study on ballistics and spatter patterns. She is planning on attending Northern Arizona University pursuing a degree in engineering and a commission as an Army Officer. This scholarship was made possible by the generous contribution of Mrs. Helen Wege in memory of her husband, LTC Hans F. Wege.

The Coronado Chapter Scholarship: Shannon

Moore has truly been a student athlete during her entire high school career. She has been a member of the Buena High School Varsity Swim Team and served as

the team captain during critical regional and state competitions. Shannon has also played on the powerhouse Buena High School Junior Varsity and Varsity Softball Teams. She will be graduating with an impressive 4.26 GPA ranking her 13th in a graduating class of 562. Shannon is a National History Day Regional winner, a People to People Student Ambassador, and a Youth Engineering and Science Fair and Calculus Camp participant. She volunteers in local causes such as cleaning up trails and canyons in the Huachuca Mountains and encouraging youth reading and math skills. Shannon will be attending Barrett, the Honors College, at Arizona State University. She will be pursuing a career in the fields of civil and environmental engineering.

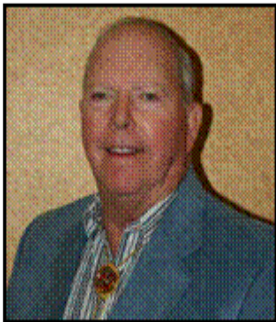
The Coronado Chapter Scholarship: Ariana

Dildine is a talented and hardworking young woman. She has excelled in JROTC, serving as Cadet Battalion Commander, Command Sergeant Major, Honor Guard Commander, and numerous other leadership positions. She has a 4.3 GPA placing her 12th in a graduating class of 562. She has maintained a 98% grade in JROTC. Ariana has been active in the National Honor Society, the Advanced Placement Club, Calculus Club and the Buena Marching Band. Community service activities include highway cleanups, American Red Cross Blood Drives, Cancer Relay for Life, nursing home visitations, and tutoring. She has earned numerous JROTC awards and medals for achievement and excellence. Ariana has also earned a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. She is planning on attending Cedarville University in Ohio and majoring in physics. Ariana eventually plans on working for the National Air and Space Administration and with a ministry organization such as the New Tribes Mission Aviation Program.

The Coronado Chapter Scholarship: Zoe Bier-

anowski has a 4.35 GPA and is ranked seventh of 562 in her class at Buena High School. Zoe Bieranowski and her partner, Brittany Vowell, took first place in the 2009 SSVEC Youth and Engineering Science Fair. The project studied Spatter Patterns and Ballistics. She took first place in the regional and state level National History Day Competition. Her subject was The Sonderkommando Revolt at Auschwitz, during the Second World War.

(Cont on page 6)



PERSONAL AFFAIRS
by
Col Bob White USMC (Ret)

REPORTING THE DEATH OF A MILITARY RETIREE

The Defense and Accounting Service (DFAS) provides this information to assist in reporting the death of a retiree or annuitant.

1. Notify DFAS at (800) 321-1080, with SSAN and date of death. Send one copy of the death certificate indicating cause of death to the following, as applicable:

FOR RETIREES: DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130
FAX: (900) 469-6559

FOR ANNUITANTS: DFAS U.S. Military
Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7131
FAX: (800) 982-8459

DFAS will take steps to close out the pay account to prevent overpayments. If the decedent was a retiree enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), DFAS will take additional steps to initiate pay accounts for eligible survivors.

Designated beneficiaries should expect a Standard Form 1174 (SF 1174) and, if applicable, SBP/RSFPP-related forms in the mail within seven to ten days from reporting a death. For assistance call the DFAS numbers shown above.

more information will be provided next month in the Heliogram related to reporting a death to the Social Security Administration, DEERS, the VA, and NSLI, and what assistance can be provided by the nearest military installation in the form of a Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) or Retired Affairs Office (RAO).

Clip this article out of the Heliogram and place it in your Personal Affairs file.



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

As I reported last month, we are in the final weeks of contacting anyone who has not yet renewed their Chapter membership for calendar year 2009.

I have also made a few plans for conducting recruiting outreach events this year. I plan to participate in the Fort Huachuca Community Spouses Club recruiting event at TMAC in August, I also plan to operate a booth at the Retirees Appreciation Day on the Fort. In addition, I am looking for an approach to collaborate with the Private Professional Organizations (MICA, AFCEA, AUSA, et al) to conduct a joint membership drive activity. If you would like more information on membership, please contact me at 366-0502 or via email Cbromund@powerc.net



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Scholarships (continued from page 4)

During 2009, she was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She has participated in the Buena Fine Arts Association, the International Thespians Society, the Denominators, the National Honor Society, both the Buena and Kettering Fairmont (Ohio) high school Bands and Color Guards, and still found time for pursuing ballet. Zoe has worked and volunteered as a lifeguard and water safety instructor in both Sierra Vista and Kettering, Ohio, during the past five years. She has volunteered over 100 hours at the Fort Huachuca Community Thrift Shop since 1998 and has been a radio broadcaster at her high school radio station, WKET 98.3, in Kettering Fairmont high school. Zoe plans on attending Arizona State University, pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in languages. She hopes to eventually work in a consulate or embassy for the US State Department.

The Coronado Chapter Scholarship: Sarah Brierly has been able to effectively balance a rigorous course load, while simultaneously volunteering for many clubs. She has taken honors in Advanced Placement classes throughout her high school career, earning a 3.97 GPA. She served as a Delegate to the Model United Nations at The Hague, Netherlands, and as a Delegate to the Harvard Model United Congress in Paris, France. She traveled on a "Mission" trip to Slovakia to assist in building a school playground. Sarah is a four year Varsity Cheerleader, serving as the Captain of the squad in her senior year. She is a varsity soccer player, member of the Student Council, the National Honor Society, the Advanced Placement Club, and Reading is Fundamental Club. Sarah excelled as one of 13 students selected to work as a Peer Support Group Counselor with the Buena Counseling Department as a peer counselor/mediator. Sarah is planning on attending the University of Texas where she will major in Athletic Training with the goal of earning a graduate degree in Physical Therapy. She hopes to apply her education helping children or assisting soldiers and veterans in a military hospital.

The Coronado Chapter Scholarship: Natasha Bobke has been very active in the JROTC program, and received the MOAA Medal in 2008. She has excelled as a student, athlete, and volunteer while

attending high school. Her GPA is 4.03 ranking 16th in her class. She has been on the Varsity Swim Team and the Tennis Team, serving as the Captain of the Tennis Team in her senior year. Natasha has been in the National Honor Society, the National Society of High School Scholars, the US Achievement Academy, and participated in the Arizona level National History Day. She has found time to work at her parents business and volunteer for many local causes such as: performing highway cleanups, participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Red Cross Blood Drives, the Fry Fire Department Toy Drive, and selling VFW poppies. Natascha was a member and the President of the Sister Cities Club, where her bilingual abilities were used extensively. She has received a four-year Naval ROTC Scholarship and will be attending Washington University where she will pursue a Nursing degree. Her ultimate goal is to continue in the medical field and become a medical doctor.

Notifications were mailed during the week of 20 April 2009. MOAA Scholarship winners and their parents will be guests of the Chapter for the June 2009 dinner. I am hoping all of you can attend the June dinner and meet these outstanding young people in person.

I wish to recognize and thank the Scholarship Selection Committee of Bob Abney and Paul Weishaup for their time and energy throughout the selection process. I also wish to thank Ron Pflipson for his help on the presentation certificates and LTC John Trombley for providing outstanding support to his JROTC students and the MOAA Scholarship selection process. One thing has become obvious after going through our Scholarship selection process for the past three years. Our winners have the most supportive and committed role models in their parents. Almost all our candidates told us that their role models and heroes are their parents. Thanks to our winners' parents and supportive families.

And most importantly, the Scholarship Committee thanks you. Thank you for all your generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund. You have made it possible for the Chapter to put these outstanding young people on a positive track for their future and the future of our country.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS :(cont from page 3)

If you also work and receive either VA or SS checks, that means you receive the payroll tax withholding reduction AND the \$250 lump-sum. HOWEVER the \$250 will be subtracted from your payroll tax withholding credit, to further add to the confusion

Those affected can ask DFAS to restore the previous, higher withholding amount if desired. Retirees and survivors can call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 (or the number appearing on your DFAS Retiree/Annuity Account Statement if different) to make that happen. However, by the time you see this here in the Heliogram, it will be too late to make the change effective with your 1 May check or deposit. Do it soon if you want to make it effective 1 June.

On another subject for those who may not be aware, applications for DD-214s can be done online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided a website for veterans, and next of kin of deceased veterans, to gain online access to DD-214's at the <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> eVetRecs site. Next of kin includes surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother who may also use the online military personnel records system to request documents. Requests can be done through a secure (https) link, after you click on the red "**Request Military Records**" button at the end of the first eVetRecs page. If a family member is not a next of kin (as defined above) of a deceased veteran, they must complete a Standard Form 180 (SF 180). It is also available at the eVetRecs site to request a DD-214 for, for example, a deceased grandfather or uncle - handy for family genealogists.

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KUDOS AND TAPS

Chapter member LtCol Robert Hazlett, USAF Ret celebrated his 89th birthday on Saturday, April 11. Bob has spent 75 years in aviation as a pilot, engineer or teacher!

LCDR John Puttkammer has returned home after spending the better part of 3 months in Tucson Heart Hospital and rehabilitation facilities. Jack is improving every day and is accepting visitors.

Saw Joe Gill at the carwash the other day and he is doing well. Still with his walker, but is driving the car and seems to be well on his way to recovering from his broken hip. Get well soon, Joe.

Chapter member LTC Ron Jarvis, USA Ret passed away on March 17, 2009. He received a Bronze Star as an Army pilot, also was recognized by the FAA as a Master Pilot, who "...contributed to and maintained safe flight operations for 50 or more consecutive years of piloting aircraft."



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!

MAY: 1: Nancy Fyffe, Jack Powers, John McKinney; **2:** Richard Whisman; **3:** James Harper; **5:** Susan Finnegan; **7:** Alexander Okimoto; **8:** May Cravens, John O'Connor; **10:** May Courtney, Frances Gannon, Ernest Reynolds; **11:** Caroline Bentley, David Newell; **13:** Evans Guidroz; **15:** Claude Greene, Howard Richards; **18:** Sharon Dingwall; **19:** Charles Weeks; **20:** Stanley Gillette; **21:** Nancy Buhler; **22:** Vicki Keenan; **23:** Larry Struck; **25:** Richard Ament, Merton Chun; **26:** Bonnie Stoeckel; **28:** Patricia Holbrook, Jeffrey Engel, William Meyer; **31:** Jo Hicks.



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Thunder Mountain Activity Center — Social Hour 1800 — Dinner 1900

My Name _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Check Information

Amount for meal @ \$25 each _____

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

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)

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

BOD MEETING — 11:30 May 20th

MAY 21 — Dinner Meeting

MENU: To be determined

PROGRAM: Colonel Greg Rose, SES (Ret), Director HUMINT Center.

BOD MEETING — 11:30 June 17

JUNE 18 — Dinner Meeting

MENU: To be determined

PROGRAM: COL John Hildebrand, G-3, NETCOM, “The 11th Signal Bde tour in Iraq”



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