



CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 9

November 2009

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PRESIDENTS NOTES by President Allen Rossow

This has been a busy month. Lucinda and I attended the Arizona Council of Chapters meeting at Luke Air Force Base. Beautiful base, excellent quarters, and a great Officer's Club that will soon be closed and merged into a Community Club.

Lee Lange, Col USMC (Ret), Director of Chapter operations at National Headquarters was one of our speakers. He discussed the status of Chapter membership and several new initiatives: A revised Chapter and Council Handbook is available; they will conduct another Cover Wrap initiative in early 2010 (a cover on the Military Officer asking National members if they would like to join a local chapter); consider notifying Chapters of change of addresses; and the Give Me Ten program will be conducted again in 2010.

Also Joey Strickland, Director of Arizona Veterans Affairs was most inspirational in his description of the current state of Veteran's programs and initiatives. He enlisted in the Army and retired as a Colonel – spent 15 years in Louisiana as the Director of Veteran's Affairs. We hope that he will join us as a speaker at a future dinner meeting.

As this is being written, we have our reservations made for National meeting in San Diego on 23-24 October. We will be presented our Chapter's **third** consecutive Five-Star award! All but one Chapter in Arizona won either a Four or Five star award, making our state the highest percentage of excellent Chapters in the Nation.

Then on 30 October, we will watch Gene Fenstermacher and Ken Symmes be inducted into the Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame – richly deserved.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Gene Fenstermacher, Colonel USAF (Ret)

Some technical changes were made to the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) Section 1.

Section 41-608-04, Arizona Revised Statute by State Senate Bill SB 1176 this year. The Bill clarified that monies in the fund shall be used to provide financial assistance to families of service members who are deceased, wounded or injured or become seriously ill after September 11, 2001. Members must have entered active United States military service from Arizona or claimed this state as the service member's home of record [regardless of where deployed from]. Additionally it applies to those who deployed from a military base in Arizona [regardless of home state of record].

I would like to remind everyone that it's time to make those Arizona Tax Credit donations to the Military Family Relief Fund to help reach the \$1,000,000 annual cap that is authorized by Statute. We're at only \$102,000 for this year as of 10/07/09. Remember the \$200 per individual or \$400 donation per family costs you nothing if you have an Arizona Tax obligation of those amounts or more. The amount of the donation is credited to your tax obligation or is refunded to you if you have withholdings that cover your obligation. And this Tax Credit can be taken in addition to other Tax Credits such as the Charitable Organizations donation (up to \$400) Tax Credit, Public School donation (up to \$400) Tax Credit, Private School donations (up to \$1000) Tax Credit, etc., as long as the total amount of all of your Tax Credits do not exceed your 2009 AZ Tax obligation.

To make a donation, they need your name and address (for mailing your donation receipt) and the

Cont on page 4

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (cont from page 3)

last four digits of your Social Security number (for tax credit reporting purposes). Copy, cut out, or make a facsimile of the format below and mail with your donation made out to "Military Family Relief Fund" to:

MFRF

c/o Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
3839 N. 3rd St., Ste. 209
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Name: _____

Address: _____

Last Four Digits in SS#: _____

Go to: <http://www.azdvs.gov/mfrf.htm> for more info,

or call Donna Adams at AZDVS at 1-877-527-0764 or (602) 265-0591 if you have any questions.

TAKE NOTE: Agent Orange has now been linked to more Diseases.

In its recent review of medical research into the long-term effects of exposure to herbicides in Vietnam, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that there is a suggestive link between exposure to Agent Orange and Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease and certain rare cancers.

The Veterans Affairs Department proposes to make it easier for Vietnam veterans exposed to the Agent Orange who suffer from certain medical conditions to qualify for VA benefits. Veterans with those conditions under the VA's proposal would have presumptive status, which would make it easier to obtain benefits. It would bring to 15 the number of medical conditions that have presumptive status in connection to Agent Orange exposure. The VA estimates that about 200,000 Vietnam veterans might seek benefits under the proposed change in policy. More than 2 million military personnel were potentially exposed to Agent Orange.

Under Legislation passed last year, some TRICARE services are now free:

As of 1 September, certain TRICARE beneficiaries no longer have to pay out of pocket for immunizations, mammograms and some other preventive services. However, the new benefit does not apply to all preventive services or to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries [who are generally fully covered for such preventative measures by Medicare and TRICARE for

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (cont)

Life). Also as of 1 September beneficiaries can request reimbursement for any of these covered preventive services that they have paid for since 14 Oct. 2008. The benefit is retroactive to that date, when it was signed into law. Covered preventive services include screenings for colorectal cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer and prostate cancer; immunizations; and certain physical exams, including well-child visits for children younger than 6. This means the patient has no co-payments or cost shares, even if his or her annual Tricare deductible has not been met.

Here's how to get reimbursed:

* No claim form is required. Beneficiaries should contact the Tricare contractor that processed their claim and request a reimbursement. Beneficiaries may call or write; written requests should include the sponsor's Social Security number, full names and dates of birth of all dependents, and a current mailing address.

* Beneficiaries will be reimbursed directly by the contractor.



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PRESIDENT'S NOTES (cont from page 3)

For our dinner in November, Col Bob White is arranging a tribute to the US Marine Corps birthday, conducted by our Marines currently assigned to Fort Huachuca. At that meeting, we will announce the results of the election to our Board of Directors. The selectees will be inducted at our January meeting.

We will be entertained by the Sierra Vista Community Chorus at our December dinner – an annual event that is excellent.

We are continuing our effort to insure that we have the most correct information on all of our members (address, telephone, email address) and the method that you would prefer to receive the *Heliogram*, by regular mail, email, or from the website. Please complete the address correction form in this issue.

We are focused on improving our dinner meetings and take surveys at each dinner on both the meal and program. I solicit your comments. The quality of food has been steadily improving – comments on the September dinner were highly favorable. Thunder Mountain Activity Centre's banquet manager, Dawn Dimaggio, has been very successful in creating and supervising major improvements. We also hope that the quality of programs is improving, inviting speakers and presentations that are of the most interest to you. I will take your comments, suggestions, or recommendations at any time.

Earl Devine has been serving as our representative to the SAVMC Foundation and a treasurer for over the past five years. The foundation was founded by our Gerd Grombacher, who served as treasurer for many years. We would be very grateful for a volunteer to take over this most worthwhile veterans and community project. Please contact Earl or myself if you would be interested.

During the Holiday Season, there are many great initiatives that support our military forces. Chaplain Day, has outlined several worthwhile initiatives. As a Chapter, we will collect canned food stuffs (they have enough peas, beans, and corn!), cereal, mixes, and packaged toys and games at our November Dinner. Chaplain and I will both bring our pickups, so let's see if we can fill them. If anyone has donations and will not be able to attend, give me a call and it will be picked up and donated in your name.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Colonel Tom Day, Chaplain, USA

I have been asked for information about three programs we have here at Fort Huachuca.

1. The Chaplain's Food Locker is a program where we give food items to Soldiers and their Families in need. Items are donated to the Installation Chaplain's Office. Unit Chaplains and ACS identify those in need. The Food Locker gives out all types of perishable foods, diapers, hamburger, hot dogs and chicken donated by the community.

2. The Fort Huachuca Giving Tree Program provides a toy, a pair of shoes and an outfit to the children of our lower enlisted military. Starting 1 November 2009, Giving Trees will be placed in various locations throughout the installation. Primary locations for the Giving Trees include the Post Exchange (PX), Greely Hall, and the three (3) Chapel facilities. The Giving Trees will have ornaments hanging on them that represent a child's request and sizes. Those who take ornaments buy gifts and drop them off at the Main Post Chapel or our table at the PX. The Religious Support Office (RSO) consolidates all gifts and ensures the appropriate families receive them. Giving Trees will be available until 30 November 2009.

3. The 111th Military Intelligence Brigade sponsors the 20th Annual Thanksgiving Adopt-a-Soldier program. The program matches military and civilian families from the Fort Huachuca military community with single and geographically-single Soldiers for a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal on Thursday, 26 November 2009. Volunteer host families sign up in person or by telephone by calling the main post chapel at 533-2366. Soldiers are assigned to families in pairs. The sign-up deadline is 17 November 2009. Fort Huachuca Main Post Chapel staff will assist host families in filling out a request form. Soldiers and families participating must attend a Thanksgiving Service, at 1900, 25 November 2009 at the Main Post Chapel.

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

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| Lloyd Hill | David Newell |

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| Susan Struck | Bill Waynick |
| Howard Weckel | Richard White |
| Archie Woodin | Brigitte Woods |

MOAA Birthdays by Joan Connor

We want to say Happy Birthday to our members. They say it is O. K. to get older, but don't get "old".



NOVEMBER: 1: Elizabeth Munroe, Donna Isler; **2:** John Spengler; **3:** Douglas Case; **4:** Pat Nist; **5:** Marie Carolan, Jane Davis; **7:** Joe Flynn, Julie March; **9:** Tomoko Gillette, June Coe, Nyles Courtney; **10:** Bernard Stalmann; **11:** Sherry Marti, Darlene Gill, Phillip Wralstad; **12:** Jeffery Puttkammer; **14:** Arlene Holcomb; **17:** Elizabeth Patton; **18:** Wendy Breen; **20:** Dinah McCreery, David Howe, Helen Wege; **23:** William Davis, Duane Marholz; **24:** John Kenny, Gretchen Lamberth; **25:** Mary Ellen Kope, Thomas Day, Maurice Westmoreland; **26:** Betty Piper, Anita Kloor, Gene Walters, Chad White; **27:** Charles Wentzel; **30:** Truda Fail

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CORONADO CHAPTER MOAA WEBSITE

By **Bill Colberg, Capt, USA, Ret. Webmaster**

Visit the Coronado MOAA website @

www.coronadomoaa.org to find out what timely events are happening this week or this month for our chapter.

Get a copy of the Heliogram newsletter online in color.

Click on the home page to see what's happening who the speaker is and where the meeting is happening.

There are lots of other places to explore on the website.

Two of our unique areas are "Resources" and the "Links" page.

Under resources I just added Day Trips from Sierra Vista. For when you get guests arriving or people ask you what you do in Sierra Vista I've made up a concise guide of about 30 things you can see or do in a day.

Download a copy or e-mail it to friends.

Another fun area is old pictures of Fort Huachuca. There is even the original Heliogram map.

Our links is made up of 11 categories including Arizona, Benefits for You, Finance, Travel, VA Benefits just to name a few. There are about 150 unique entries in multiple categories.

WEBSITE INFORMATION (Cont)

These are links to computer sites in Arizona, travel through MWR for Army, Navy Lodge and Air Force resources. If you want to check your pay stubs you can go to MYPAY, it is there. There is an extensive VA benefits link. These are the most current links for claims and spouse items.

If you have a favorite link you think should be on our website let me know and we will add them.

This site is designed as a resource for you. Please visit and give it to friends and neighbors as a resource too.

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My current email address is _____

I would like to receive my *Heliogram* through the US Post Office _____

I know that I have provided this in the past; but I would like to insure my information is current:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Any other changes – I've changed my birthday, spouse, or some other thing: _____

How do I submit this? Call or email ==

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|--|----------|
| A through C | Allen | Alrossow@cox.net | 439-4144 |
| D through G | Duane | brabec@cox.net | 378-2732 |
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| W through Z | Bob | roabney@cox.net | 378-0131 |

Or enclose with your Dinner reservation:

Coronado Chapter, MOAA
Post Office Box 1685
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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 _____
Amount for Operating Fund _____
Amount for Scholarship Fund _____

Check total _____

Please mail your check prior to November 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)

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 for details

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI ____ Spouse First Name _____
Rank _____ Service _____ National MOAA Number _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ - _____

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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Coronado Chapter

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Sierra Vista, AZ. 85636-1685

Applicant Signature and Date _____

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

BOD MEETING — 11:30 November 18th

NOVEMBER 19 — Dinner Meeting

MENU: Pork San Jacques of Apple Stuffing
Mixed Green Salad w/choice of dressing
Whipped Potatoes w/roasted garlic
Asparagus with Red Peppers
Tiramisu

PROGRAM: “Here Come the Marines” Capt Heredia will detail the Marine Detachment’s mission at Fort Huachuca

BOD MEETING — 11:30 December 16th

**DECEMBER 17 — Dinner Meeting
Cocktails — 1800 Dinner — 1900**

MENU: Baked Salmon w/ crusted pecans
Wild Rice Pilaf
Green Beans Almondine,
Mixed Green Salad w/ dressing
Lemon, Strawberry, or Chocolate Mousse

PROGRAM: Sierra Vista Community Chorus
Annual Christmas Concert



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