



Superstition Mountain Express

Military Officers Association of America



November 2008

Volume 34, Issue 3

In This Issue:

President's Message	1
Announcements	4
News You Can Use	5
Personal Affairs	5
Auxiliary	6
Dinner Reservations	7

This newsletter is published monthly September - April.



The Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America Inc., is a non-profit organization, IRS tax ID# 23743086

Printed by FEDEX

Please Note!

If you receive our newsletter via the email option, please remember to share the link or file with your spouse!!! Some have expressed concern at not seeing recent issues!

President's Comments

Those of you who were unable to attend or forgot about the October Brunch missed a great buffet! (See pictures on page 2!) The food selection was varied and plentiful as can be attested to by the several members who made a second pass through the line. The staff at the Dobson Ranch Inn deserves a "Well Done" for the excellent service and their efforts in setting up the room and tables.

On October 16 – 18 Travis Wilson, Greg Moore and I attended the eleventh consecutive MOAA annual Chapter President's Symposium and Personal Affairs Workshop in South Lake Tahoe. In attendance were over 180 Chapters and Council representatives from 16 Western Region states. The purpose of the Symposium was two fold:

1. To examine and discuss key issues related to Chapter management.
2. To develop recommendations for implementing ideas that surfaced as related to Recruiting, Retention, Chapter Leadership and new directions for our Personal Affairs officer.

As a result of these workshops our Chapter goals will be able to provide more support to MOAA's many legislative goals. We have to mobilize our members to talk to and write our legislators about the many issues involving active duty, National Guard, Reserves, retirees and surviving spouses. *continued*

Officers	Directors	Committee Chairs
President CDR Larry Rasmussen	CWO4 Robert Delker	Program MAJ Travis Wilson
1 st VP MAJ Carl Travis Wilson	LTC Charles Eckert	Membership <i>Vacant</i>
2 nd VP MAJ Austin Foote	LCDR Norman Flower	Personal Affairs 1LT Gregory Moore
VP Auxiliary Ann Ferguson	1LT Gregory Moore	Legislative CWO4 Robert Delker
Secretary Ann Gippert	LTC Douglas Shannon	Community Grant Program <i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer Carol Winkler		Outstanding Member Nom COL Al Page
		JROTC/Scholarship MAJ Travis Wilson
		Newsletter LTC Marilyn Holmlund

Superstition Mountain Express

Presidents Comments - continued

We belong to the most dynamic and influential military organization in the country. We have to let our politicians hear our voices. To maintain our influence we, as a Chapter, have to step up our recruiting of new members and retention of our current members. You need you to talk to and encourage your military or former military friends to join our cause.

Due to a major scheduling conflict BG Hugo Salazar, Assistant Adjutant General, AZ Army National Guard will be unable to attend the November 19 dinner meeting. However his G3, State Operations Officer COL Al Gonzalez will join us and present a video followed by some comments about Guard accomplishments and in particular, he can also talk about his first hand experiences. COL Gonzalez was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel after he returned from a year-long deployment as Commander of the AZ NG's 158th Infantry Battalion. His BN's deployment was the largest unit to ever deploy in the history of the Arizona NG and his BN's performance in Afghanistan was outstanding. As

you know we support the Family Assistance program that helps families of deployed Guard and Reserve personnel, and I encourage all of you to make the effort to attend this meeting in support of the Chapter and our guest speaker.

ALERT: Chapter membership EXPIRES in December 2008 and needs to be RENEWED in January 2009. As you all know to well the cost of everything has kept going up, as are our membership dues. Our dues have remained static for several years but in order for our Chapter to stay financially viable the Board of Directors approved an increase to \$25 for regular members and \$12.50 for auxiliary members. There is a renewal form included in this Newsletter.

Finally, on November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. I extend to all of our USMC members my wishes for a very happy 233rd birthday.

***Remember: Through These Portals Pass the
Finest Military Officers - - YOU!***

Larry Rasmussen President



1008 Chapter Dues Renewal Form



Annual Dues: \$25 Regular Members \$12.50 Auxiliary Members

Please make check payable to **Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA**

- - - Write *MOAA Chapter Dues* on Memo line of check

Mail to Carol Winkler, Treasurer 425 E. Marigold Lane Tempe, AZ 85281-1414

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2008 My national MOAA number _____

Signed _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Family Assistance Program – Bob Delker

The Superstition Mountain Chapter of MOAA along with other Valley Chapters have kicked off our annual "National Guard Family Assistance Program" to aid the Military Reserve Families left behind. Each year we have managed to collect between \$4000 – 6000 to help the wives and family members who are left behind and are in need of assistance to get through the Christmas Holiday Season. I personally cannot think of anything worse than a small child not receiving Christmas presents!

Remember, folks, the "War on Terrorism" may not be on the front burner, but for the one percent of Americans who are fighting it, it is still very real. And today more that ever before the military duties in Iraq and Afghanistan are being carried out by National Guard and Reserve Units. At last count more than half the troops over there were Reservists - over 900 from Arizona alone. So I ask you to Please give generously to this very worthwhile program.
My Thanks - Bob

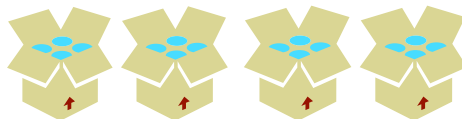


Upcoming Meetings – Travis Wilson

Remember – our big November meeting is at Dobson Ranch Best Western. Menu choices are Turkey, Orange Roughy or Sliced Roast Beef.

In December we will return to Anzio Landing for the next few months. Many members have expressed how much they've enjoyed the food there, so here are the menu choices we're planning.

- December 14 Choice of Baked Ham with Mashed potatoes, green beans, house salad, and dessert or Roast Turkey with mashed potatoes and stuffing with dessert.
- January 18 Choice of Spaghetti & Meatballs, Pork Tenderloin, or Chicken Parmesan with dessert
- March 15 Choice of Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salmon, Eggplant Parmigiana with dessert.



Don't forget to bring any donations you have collected for the Packages from Home project to the meeting. Feel free to collect from family, friends, and neighbors as well as on your own. Many people want to contribute but don't know what is needed or where to send it. So let's help them to make a difference too.

Announcements

New Members

MAJ Michael & Yolanda Farmer



Meeting Schedules

Board Meeting – Monday, Nov 10, 2008

The November meeting is at The Veranda at Dobson Ranch Golf Course at 12:00 noon. All members are cordially invited to attend these meetings to see how your Board is working for the betterment of our Chapter.

Auxiliary Spouses Meeting – Friday, Nov 14, 2008

The Auxiliary meets on the second Friday of each month at 11:30 at Denny’s restaurant in Gilbert. Please contact Ann Ferguson (480-961-9634 or email vferguson@cox.net) for reservations by Thursday of the meeting week.

Congratulations!

Birthdays

Members

Paul Peffley	9
Norman Peters	11
David Lynch	13
John Enroth	19
Lucian Phoenix	25
John Kwak	27
Howard Rubin	27



Spouses

Joyce Johnson	5
Jackie Wilde	5
Sharon Bruce	7
Ann Ferguson	7
Florence Gunderson	9
Maggie Czerwinski	12
Magdalen Kwak	12
Josephine Meegan	14
Florence Shook	16
Helen Benner	24
Frances Burt	24
Genie Mortensen	24
Vivian Whalen	24
Maggie Prunty	26

Anniversaries

Robert & Alvera Kerr	6
Ned & Emily Rodak	11
Allan & Frances Burt	23
Donald & Farika Bridgers	24
Henry & Roberta Rawls	25
Lowell & Marlene Fox	29



Raffle Results



Portable Clock Radio	DeLone Wood
Men’s Golf Shirt	Lee Edwards
Bailey’s Coffee Set	Tom Ralph
Electric Razor	Carol Winkler
Ladies Jewelry	Don Ford
Christmas Angel Candle	Marilyn Miles
Scottish Golf Cups and cookies	Lee Edwards
Hand Tooled Leather Belt and Buckle	Melanie Ralph
Book: Above and Beyond, Aviation Medals of Honor	James Grayson



News You Can Use

What's Your COLA?

The Dec 2008 COLA (which retirees will see in the Jan. 2009 checks) will be 5.8%. It is based on a COLA base change from 203.6 for the third quarter of 2007 to 215.5 (new 2008 COLA Base) for the third quarter of 2008. The September CPI-W was down 0.1% based on a decrease to 214.935 from the August CPI-W of 215.247. The reduction was primarily based on energy prices

decreasing by 1.9% while food prices were up 0.6%.

Service members who retired during calendar year 2008 will receive a partial COLA for this year because they already received a January military pay raise (which also raised their 2008 retired pay). Members retired during 2008 will receive full-year COLAs in future years

Expiration Date on the Back of Your Military ID Card?

Yes, it is there! Before TRICARE For Life (TFL) was enacted, the expiration date indicated when you dropped off the TRICARE Prime or Standard rolls upon turning age 65. Folks with TFL still see the expiration date because the processes used for issuing military ID cards do not allow for an "indefinite" or blank input in the expiration block. Contracted health providers and military treatment facilities are aware of this issue and you should have no problems. But if you do ask the service provider to perform an interactive DEERS query rather than rely on the ID card information. And have your Medicare Part A and B card ready.

Golden Corral Restaurants Salute America's Heroes with Free Dinner

Golden Corral's 2008 Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 17, 2008 from 5 pm to 9 pm in all Golden Corral Restaurants.

\$2.53 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization.



The free "thank you" dinner is available to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves, you are invited to participate in Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner.

Golden Corral restaurants in our area:

- 1318 North Cooper Road, Gilbert
- 1868 N Power Road, Mesa.

To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 1.8 million free meals and contributed over

Personal Affairs – Greg Moore

DD 214

A recent conference sponsored by MOAA emphasized that the single most important document that a member's spouse should know about is the DD214. This is the documentation that opens the doors for VA benefits, retirement as well as State programs. So in your folder of important papers you should have your DD 214 as well as your wedding certificate.

On this subject, be sure that you have your accounts at banks, brokerages, deeds, etc., worded such that in the case of death, the surviving spouse has no problems accessing accounts etc

Congratulations to Bob Delker!

Our Bob Delker was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in October. Several Chapter members attended the luncheon and ceremony, including President Larry Rasmussen and current AVHOF members Fred Ferguson and Doug Shannon.



Auxiliary Report – Ann Ferguson

The Auxiliary continues to meet monthly on the 2nd Friday of the month for lunch, to socialize, see who gets the door prizes and to pursue ways to get our members more involved. Last month we had several new and returning faces at our luncheon and hope to continue to see more of you. We would like to welcome new participants Lee Edwards and Jeannine Grayson as well as all of our hard working returning members. Members decided to schedule a Naughty Santa Gift Exchange as part of our December meeting.

The group continues to gather donations to send to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, since last report 5 more boxes have been filled and sent. The latest boxes are projected to reach the troops in time for the holidays. We started this effort in July with a goal of 1 box per month and in the 5 months we have been collecting, we have sent 9 boxes overseas. You can all be very proud of your efforts; this is a great way to show your support and patriotism. We are making a difference everyday!

At our recent meeting, we discussed the coming Chapter elections and the importance of staying active in the Chapter as each of us is able. The idea of again having a Silent Auction as an annual fund-raiser was discussed and taken to the Board as a proposal. The monthly raffles are well liked but the same people are doing them over and over so the Auxiliary is looking for ways to get more members involved. Please share any ideas you have to make our general membership and our Auxiliary meetings better.

The next Auxiliary meeting will be on Friday, November 14, 2008 at 11:30 am at Denny’s Restaurant, 1368 N. Cooper Rd, in Gilbert. During that meeting, we will finalize plans for the Christmas gift exchange and luncheon. To make reservations for the November meeting, call or leave a message for Ann Ferguson at 480-961-9634 or email vfergusonfnp@cox.net by Thursday the 13th.

November Dinner Reservations

Make checks payable to
Superstition Mountain
Chapter, MOAA,
\$22/person

CLIP AND MAIL:
Travis Wilson
320 S. Golden Key Drive
Gilbert AZ 85233-6309

CALL or EMAIL:
480-813-5987
traviswil@aol.com

Dinner Reservations

Sunday, Nov 16, 2008 – Best Western Dobson Ranch Inn
Social Hour – 6:00 pm Dinner – 7:00 pm

Name (please print)

Menu choice:

_____ Turkey _____ Orange Roughy _____ Sliced Roast Beef

Enclosed: \$ _____ for _____ places

Chapter Community Grant Donation

Enclosed is our donation of \$ _____ for this program

The Chapter MAY ___ MAY NOT ___ publish our names in the newsletter

Signed _____

Please make check payable to **Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA**

Mail to Carol Winkler, Treasurer
425 E. Marigold Lane - Tempe, AZ 85281-1414

Family Assistance Fund Donation

Enclosed is our tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Signed _____

Please make check payable to **Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA**

Mail to Carol Winkler, Treasurer
425 E. Marigold Lane - Tempe, AZ 85281-1414

Superstition Mountain Express

**Superstition Mountain
Chapter
Military Officers Association
of America
717 W. Boxelder Place
Chandler, AZ 85225**

Stamp

Address Label

2008 Schedule of Events

Chapter Meetings

Sunday Nov 16 Dinner Dance with Guest Speaker COL Al Gonzalez
Best Western Dobson Inn - Cocktails 6pm, Dinner 7pm
Sunday Dec 14 Military Ball
Anzio Landing – Details TBD

Auxiliary Lunch Meetings

All meetings are on Fridays at 11:30 am. Please notify Ann by the Thursday before the meeting if you plan to attend.

Friday Nov 14 **Denny’s Restaurant**
Friday Dec 12 **1368 N. Cooper Rd**
Gilbert, AZ