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HELIOGRAM

THE MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Inside

PRESIDENT'S NOTES — Page 3

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS — Page 3

PERSONAL AFFAIRS — Page 5

FEBRUARY 2016

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www.moacoronado.org

Volume 43 Number 2

February 2016

FUTURE MEETING DATES

BOD MEETING 11:30 Feb 17, 2016

LANDMARK CAFÉ

Dinner Meeting February 18, 2016

Pueblo Del Sol Country Club

2770 South St Andrews Drive

Social Hour — 1800 Dinner — 1830

**MENU: Field Greens topped with Apples,
Grapes and Walnuts**

Maple Glazed Baked Salmon

Garlic Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

Tempura Battered Vegetables with a

**Teriyaki Sauce paired with Vegetable
ble Fried Rice**

**Cheese Cake with Caramelized Ap
ples**

**PROGRAM; Dr. Randy Groth, Civilian
Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA)
Subject: “Sec Army’s Top Priorities”**

BOD MEETING 11:30 Mar 16, 2016

LANDMARK CAFÉ

Dinner Meeting March 17, 2016

Pueblo Del Sol Country Club

2770 South St Andrews Drive

Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830

MENU:

**PROGRAM: Annual Recognition of Schol
arship Winners.**



CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.MOAAACORONADO.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES by President Bob Covalucci, COL, USA (Ret.)

It is an honor to be your President for 2016-2017. Two things that I must say. First, I am extremely grateful to those members who routinely attend our monthly dinner meetings. I do wish more of you will join us for dinner in the future (make that a new year's resolution). The camaraderie is great, the food is wonderful, the raffle is second to none and the guest speakers provide timely and valuable information on our community and our mission. Second, I must recognize the members of the Board of Directors. Individually they make a great contribution to our service members and veterans and collectively they are the finest group of volunteers I have ever worked with in support of Service goals. Coronado Chapter is truly blessed by their talents and dedication. We will miss Ron and Jackie Pflipsen and we welcome Joe Puett, George Kirmse and Joe Britton to the Board of Directors. Tom Hessler continues to make great contributions to our Chapter. Now, he is not only the Past President but has accepted the position of 2d VP with responsibility for Programs. That leaves the position of 1st VP available for one of you that is willing to serve on this exceptional Board of Directors.

Our guest speaker for the January meeting was Col (Ret) Wanda Wright, Director of Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. She did an exceptional job of identifying and explaining what initiatives are taking place in Arizona to continue and expand the support of benefits to the Service members and Veterans in our Arizona communities. We wish her great success in support of our veterans.

(cont on Page 4)



VETERANS LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Gene Fenstermacher, Col, USAF (Ret)

Let's take a look at MOAA's Top 10 Legislative Goals for 2016.

- 1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains top-quality care.** MOAA will strive to ensure the problems with TRICARE are addressed in a systemic manner, programs that are working well are sustained, and problem areas are addressed to improve care, coverage, and readiness.
- 2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.** MOAA adamantly will resist proposals to make military health care programs more like those offered by civilian employers and that add thousands of dollars a year to military beneficiaries' costs.
- 3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.** MOAA strongly objects to further planned pay caps. This unwise process generated retention crises in the 1970s and '90s. Sustaining pay comparability is essential to long-term retention and readiness.
- 4. Block erosion of compensation and commissary benefits.** MOAA will strive to protect against privatization, consolidation, reduction in services, or elimination efforts in commissary and exchange programs.
- 5. Protect military retirement/COLAs.** MOAA will continue to exert every effort to preserve the congressional intent, as expressed in the House Armed Services Committee Print of Title 37, U.S. Code, "to provide every military retired member the same purchasing power of the retired pay to which he was entitled at the time of retirement [and ensure it is] not, at any time in the future ... eroded by subsequent increases in consumer prices."

(ccnt on page 4)

VETERANS LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (cont)

6. Sustain wounded-warrior programs and expand caregiver support. More must be done to ensure medical and benefit systems are providing continuity of care and coverage for wounded warriors of all services and components, including reasonable assistance, training, mental health and family-marital counseling, and compensation for their dependent and nondependent caregivers.

7. End disabled/survivor financial penalties. MOAA will continue to fight for full repeal of the deduction of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for survivors of service members who died of service-connected causes.

8. Fix Guard/Reserve retirement. The new hybrid retirement plan (for service entrants on or after Jan. 1, 2018), composed of reduced retired pay and a matched 401(k)-style system, will require robust financial education of all service members, including guard members and reservists, to protect their retirement interests.

9. Improve spouse and family support. MOAA recognizes the significance of continued crucial support of military family members bearing the brunt on the home front of over a decade at war. MOAA will work with Congress, DoD, and others in ensuring necessary family support and quality-of-life services across all components, installations, and communities. Military families with a special-needs member face additional stressors. More must be done to enhance support services and health care for these families.

10. Assure timely access to the VA, and eliminate the VA claims backlog. Changes in leadership in some facilities, recruitment of separating DoD medical professionals, upgrades of clinical space, and an overhaul of the out-of-date scheduling system are needed. MOAA supports a comprehensive, strategic plan for VA health care delivery in the 21st century, and will continue to be watchful against any initiative that would force dual-eligible beneficiaries, solely as a cost-savings measure, to choose between the DoD and VA health systems.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES (cont.)

If you participated in a Chapter event in the past that you enjoyed and you would like to do it again, please tell me or one of our Board members about the event. I know many of you are working individually to support community programs. If there is a community program that you believe is compatible with the Chapter's mission and is worthy of the Chapter's attention and support, please identify it to us.

I want to make special mention of Harry Bowen CWO, USA (Ret) our Director of TOPS/ESGR for his selection as the Sierra Vista Veteran of the Year for 2016. Congratulations Harry a recognition well earned! And, a "Shout Out" to Frances Kosinski for donating her winnings from the 50/50 Raffle to the Scholarship Fund. I asked our members at the January meeting if they would be interested in having a CORONADO CHAPTER MOAA decal to display in the rear window of their automobile. It would be a way to show your membership in the Chapter and hopefully attract new members to the Chapter. While the response was not unanimous, many members not only wanted a decal but some asked for more than one. If you would be interested in a Chapter decal, please send an Email to the secretary at:jmpuett1@aol.com.

As a new guy in the Presidents seat with only 2 years of Chapter experience, I am seeking ideas, new and old, to make YOUR membership more rewarding and fun.

Next, I encourage each of you to periodically look at our Chapter Web Site, www.moaacoronado.org. Our Webmaster Major Bill Frobe has done a great job to bring it up to date and it now provides changing and current information on Chapter activities and provides excellent contact information on our Board members.

I HOPE TO TALK WITH YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING.

BOB



**PERSONNEL AFFAIRS by
Terrie Gent, Col, USAF Ret**

**Military, Veteran, and Senior
Discounts,**

Lots of restaurants - especially the big chains - home repair stores, department stores, airlines, hotels, car rental companies, and other businesses offer discounts to military members (active duty, Guard, and Reserve), veterans, and seniors. I thought I might list some of the businesses in the local area who offer discounts. But when I started doing research I found that some of them don't seem to advertise them on their webpages, even though I have asked for, and received, a discount.

What I can tell you is while lots of businesses offer discounts, that there doesn't seem to be a uniform policy. Discounts vary and they may not be offered at all locations of a business with more than one outlet or location. The military related discounts may differ based on status such as active duty, Guard and Reserve, retired, or veteran. Discounts may have limits, too, you may be able to get a discount, but only on the first, say, \$500 of a purchase. The age at which one may get a senior discount varies from company to company. So, ask for the details and if you don't qualify today, you may in the future. And, happy day, you may qualify for more than one discount, but businesses won't let you add them together, so decide which gives you a more robust savings. For example, the AARP discount sometimes beats a military discount at hotel chains. So if you are active duty military, Guard, or Reserve, retired, a veteran, or a person who won't mind admitting to being a senior, ask if a discount might apply to you. You may be pleasantly surprised. You could put part of your savings in our scholarship fund.

The Soldier For Life-Transition Assistance Program Office on Fort Huachuca is looking to fill two vacancies for career counselors to assist soldiers in transition. These positions are initially part time positions with the possibility of becoming full time positions later this year. Positions require a masters degree to be considered. Interested persons must apply on line at <https://jobs.serco-na.com/jobs/-/1025/12958325>.



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FROM THE CHAPTER HISTORIAN

By LTC Tom Fail, USA, (Ret)

WWII – POWs in the US

After the United States entered WWII in 1941, the British requested American help with housing prisoners of war due to a housing shortage in Britain. By December 1940 there were already 130,000 Italian POW's from Italy's failed campaign in North Africa. The US agreed though not prepared for basic logistic considerations such as food, clothing and housing requirements of the prisoners.

From the Normandy invasion in June 1944 through December 30,000 prisoners a month arrived; for the last few months of the war 60,000 were arriving each month. When the war was over, there were 425,000 enemy prisoners in 511 main and branch camps spread over 46 states.

The prisoners were usually shipped in Liberty Ships returning home that would otherwise be empty. Good treatment began with the substantial meals served aboard. Upon arriving in America, the comfort of the Pullman cars that carried them to their prison camps amazed the Germans, as did the country's large size and undamaged prosperity.

Other than barbed wire and watchtowers, the POW camps resembled standard United States or German military training sites. The Geneva Convention of 1929 required living quarters comparable to those of its own military, which meant 40 square feet for enlisted men and 120 square feet for officers. The three admirals and 40 generals in custody were sent to a Mississippi camp, where each had his own bungalow with garden. The Geneva Convention's mandate of equal treatment for prisoners also meant they were paid American military wages. They could work on farms or elsewhere only if they were also paid for their labor, and officers could not be compelled to work. Given the wartime labor shortage, especially in agriculture, many valued their contribution; as late as February 1945, politicians in rural states asked the government for 100,000 more prisoners to work on farms and prisoner workers were usually available immediately on demand and in the exact numbers needed.

Prisoners had friendly interaction with local civilians and sometimes were allowed outside the camps without guards on the honor system; luxuries such as beer and wine were sometimes available, and hobbies or sports were encouraged. Several camps held social receptions with local American girls, and some Germans met their future wives as prisoners.

Life in the camps was reportedly "firm but fair". There were insufficient American guards, especially German speakers. They mostly supervised the German officers and NCOs who strictly maintained discipline. The Germans woke their own men, marched them to and from meals, and prepared them for work. However, there were instances of kangaroo courts held by pro-Nazi POWs against some they considered disloyal resulting in beatings and murder. After the war the US executed 14 Germans for murdering fellow prisoners.

The prisoners were provided with writing materials, art supplies, woodworking utensils, and musical instruments and were allowed regular correspondence with family in Germany. General officers received wine with their meals, and all prisoners ate the same rations as American soldiers including special meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Camps built libraries to organize their reading material and prisoners often purchased their own, but they never had enough reading material. They had subscriptions to American newspapers, and every camp published its own newspaper with poetry and short stories, puzzles and games, listings of upcoming events, and classified ads. Camp authorities recognized the periodicals' value in serving as creative outlets and as accurate indicators of the prisoners' views. The tone of their articles varied; some promoted Nazi ideology and foresaw German victory.

The camps in the United States are otherwise what the Associated Press later called "all but forgotten part of history", even though some former inmates went on to become prominent in postwar Germany. About 860 German POWs remain buried in 43 sites across the United States, with their graves often tended by local German Women's Clubs. Even in the communities which formerly hosted POW camps for Germans, local residents often do not know the camps ever existed. When repatriated, seven prisoners could not be accounted for.



Bob Covalucci (our new president) presenting our MOAA chapter certificate to Harry Bowen (one of our directors) in honor of Harry's selection as Sierra Vista's newest "Veteran of the Year".



President Bob Covalucci presents Col. Wanda Wright, USAF, (Ret) Director of AZ Dept of Veterans Services a chapter coin following her presentation at our January meeting.



Harry giving his comments at the conclusion of the 14 January luncheon in his honor.



President Covalucci thanks Col Wright for her support for the many veterans in Arizona.

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Associate Members	12
Auxiliary	21



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Pueblo Del Sol Country Club, 2770 South St Andrews Drive, Sierra Vista
Social Hour 1800 — Dinner 1830

My Name _____ Guest Name(s) _____

Check Information

Amount for meal @ \$25 each _____

Amount for Operating Fund _____

Amount for Scholarship Fund _____

Check total _____

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(result of post office mail handling changes)

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Please change the following information for me: Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contact person for reservations is Tom Hessler, phone 459-0093, email: tjhessler@cox.net



CORONADO CHAPTER



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Spouse's First Name _____ National MOAA Number _____

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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 ___

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Renewal Membership is (Reg) \$ 15.00; (Aux) is \$ 10.00

Mail to: Coronado Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 1685
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

Signature and Date _____

For further Membership questions, contact LTC George Kirmse, 378-2670, email : kirmsegm@cox.net