CORONADO CHAPTER MOAA TM

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HELIOGRAM

THE MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Inside

PRESIDENT'S NOTES — Page 3

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS — Page 3

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS ——— Page 5

SCHOLARSHIP NOTES ——- Page 6

TREASURER'S NOTES — Page 7

January 2015

OFFICERS

President COL Thomas Hessler, USA (Ret)
tjhessler@cox.net..... .227-0545
Past President COL Tom Finnegan, USA (Ret)
tfinnegan2@cox.net.....378-3527
1st Vice President COL Bob Covalucci, USA, (Ret)
robertjcovalucci@gmail.com.....456-3503
2nd Vice President

Secretary COL Ronald Pflipsen, USA (Ret)
pflip1@mac.com.....417-0175
Treasurer COL Robert Abney, USA (Ret)
ROAbney@cox.net.....378-0131
Chaplain COL Thomas Day, USA (Ret)
tday500@yahoo.com.....915-588-9281

DIRECTORS

Col Gene Fenstermacher, USAF (Ret), Legislative Affairs
fensteg@cox.net.....378-1471
CW3 Harry Bowen, USA (Ret), AZTOPS/ESGR
harrybowen@aol.com.....458-1058
COL John Black, USA (Ret), Scholarship
johnandjoanblack@cox.net 378-0209

DIRECTORS (cont.)

COL Bill Sherod, USA (Ret). Publicity
sherod @cox.net.....458-0860
Col Terrie M. Gent, USAF (Ret), Personal Affairs
tmgent@cox.com..... 378-2915
Mrs. Jan Cole, Auxiliary Affairs
thecolebin@cox.net ……. .803-6612
LTC Lollie Yancey, USA (Ret) JROTC
lollie1957@yahoo.com .....(717)222-0120
COL Allen Rossow, USA (Ret) Actg Director for Membership
alrossow@cox.net 439-4144

DEPUTY DIRECTORS

COL Duane Brofer, USA (Ret) Database Manager
brabec@cox.net.....378-2732
LTC Earl Devine, USA (Ret), Community Liaison
edevine1@cox.net.....458-5224
LTC Tom Fail, USA, (Ret) Chapter Historian
tfail@cox.net 458-5169
LTC Paul Puttkammer, USA (Ret), Heliogram Editor
pputt@earthlink.net.....803-0255
MAJ Larry Singer, USA, (Ret) TOPS
larry.t.singer@gmail.com.....508-6878

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www.moaacoronado.org

Volume 42 Number 1 January 2015

FUTURE MEETING DATES

BOD MEETING 11:30 January 14, 2015
LANDMARK CAFÉ

Dinner Meeting January 15, 2015
Pueblo Del Sol Country Club
2770 South St Andrews Drive
Social Hour —- 1800 Dinner— 1830

MENU: Dinner salad w/grapes, Apples, & Candied Walnuts w/dressing
Chicken Cordon Bleu w/ White wine cream sauce.
Roasted Red Potatoes
Chef's vegetables
Apple/Cherry Trifle

PROGRAM: Mr Bob Simon, Presentation on the Honor Flight program
Induction of new Chapter officers and directors.

BOD MEETING 11:30 February 18, 2015
LANDMARK CAFÉ

Dinner Meeting February 19, 2015
Pueblo Del Sol Country Club
2770 South St Andrews Drive
Social Hour —- 1800 Dinner— 1830

MENU: Field greens with Bleu cheese, Red Onion, & pine nuts /raspberry vinagerate
Roasted Pork Loin /Bourbon Wine Sauce
Hawaiin Bleu Mashed Potatoes
Chef's vegetable
Red Velvet Cake

PROGRAM: TBD

CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.MOAACORONADO.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES by President ,Tom Hessler COL, USA (Ret)

We had a very enjoyable end-of-year dinner program featuring the Sierra Vista Community Chorus. They have become an annual tradition for us. I was pleased to be able to present them a modest donation on behalf of our chapter. We also presented a special tip to the PDS staff for their great dinner service throughout the year. I was super happy to announce that Earl Devine has been selected as Sierra Vista's next Veteran of the Year. A luncheon in his honor will be held on 29 January at 1130 at the VFW Hall on Veterans Drive. The cost is only $19. The RSVP date is 21 January. Checks should be made out to "Cochise Chapter, AFA" and sent to "Cochise Chapter, AFA, PO Box 2141, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-2141"..

We will start out our 2015 dinner program on 15 January. Bob Simon will bring us up to date on the local Honor Flight program. I will have the honor of presenting him a check for just over $2,000 that will sponsor the program participation of two deserving veterans. The only order of real business that evening will be the swearing in of newly elected and reelected members of our board. They are Bill Sherod, Lollie Yance, Terrie Gent and Harry Bowen.

Remember to bring a bag or two of non-perishable food to our January dinner. They will be donated to the Post Chaplain's food locker. There is great demand throughout the year, not just during the holiday season. In lieu of food, you might consider writing a check to the "Chaplains Tithes and Offerings Fund" and bring to our January dinner.

I continue to be impressed with our chapter officers, directors, and deputy directors. They are all dedicated to the success and welfare of our chapter; which by the way, the largest chapter in Arizona (thanks to the tireless work of Allen Rossow.

Tom

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

Fortunately, Congress either rejected or signifivantly curtailed some active duty and retiree aspects the Pentagon's 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) proposal. The final compromise blocked the consolidation of TRICARE systems and means testing TFL enrollment fees while limiting the impact of the commissary, housing allowance, and pharmacy fee proposals to one year modifications. While not as bad as the original version it did include an increase in Retail Pharmacy rates for a 30 day supply which went from $5 to $8 for Generics, and from $17 to $20 for Brand names and $44 to $47 for non-formulary (which were to be excluded in the original version of the bill).

Mail order rates for a 90 day supply stayed at $0 co-pay for Generics and increased from $13 to $16 for Brand names, and from $43 to $46 for non-formulary.

And thankfully, the final version of the 2015 NDAA reduced of the planned $100 million cut in commissary funding originally included in the defense authorization bill to a $10 million cut.

However,, in two obscure sections of a joint explanatiory statement fo the defense bill, House and senate Armed Services Committeemembers stated that they have not yet rejected DOD plans to further erode housing allowances or to increase TRICARE Pharmacy fees further, and will again "commit to consider" these proposals again next year.

(cont on page 4)

LEGISLATTIVE AFFAIRS (cont)

But if sequestration returns, an even uglier scenario will be on the horizon. The joint statement goes on to say that if sequestration returns, "DOD will need to make painful cuts and achieve substantial savings across its entire budget in order to avoid an unacceptable reduction in readiness."

So that could again mean helping balance the budget on the backs of active duty personnel and retirees. We will be watching that throughout this New Year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

TOPS AND ESGR NOTES by Harry Bowen, CW3,USA (Ret).

TOPS
This month is the first month that we have been able to publish Government jobs on the web site. For example, this week we uploaded 20 new positions at Ft. Huachuca.
Month of December, 32 non-Government, 29 Government related, and 35 Cochise County in addition to 11 external to Cochise County.
ESGR
On 23 December, 4 members will meet with the reserves on post to update them on changes with ESGR and H2H practices.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Regular Members 243

Auxiliary Members 22

MOAA Chapter Recruiting 2014 by Col Allen Rossow, USA , Ret

NEW MEMBERS joined in 2014

MAJ Janes Ackerman
Col Maxie Allen
COL Ben Anderson
COL Micheal Arinello
MAJ Norman Bates
Col Richard Bauerbach
CW2 Richard Bennett
CW4 Gary Berger
LTC Patrick Boland
MAJ Charles Burrows
COL Susan Browning
LT William Burton
LTC Robert Buscher
1LT Tommy Coffman
LTC Teddy Cooper
LTC Stanley Crawford
LTC Brian Crawford
CW3 Seongok Chang
MAJ Robert Dalby
LTC Clyde Davenport
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COL Robert Dey
LTC Louis DiDonato
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MAJ Steven Gill
COL Julio Gonzalez
Ms. Jan Guy
LTC Craig Halbrook
CDR Dane Hall
MAJ Jon Hanson
MAJ Marilyn Harper
CPT Jimmy Horton
CW3 Malcolm Howard
COL Wm Humphrey
CW2 Danny Hurd
LtCol Ronald Hull
CW4 Mark Ingram
LTC Ed Jansen
LTC Bruce Judson
MAJ Debra Koltveit
LTC John Keenan
MAJ Robert Lee
COL Clifford Letts
COL Patrick Linhares
CW4 Robt Lusignan
LCDR Christine Livengood
LTC Steven Maglio
LTC Ted Martens
COL Lee Merchen
MAJ Andrew Milligan
LTC Phillip Montbleu
LTC Dennis Nickels
LTC James O'Neil
Col Douglas Orsi
MAJ Paul Pashia
COL Calvin Phillips
LTC Alex Romero
CW2 Laris Russell
CPT Debra Scott
MAJ Betty Seely
CW3 Lee Sheley
MAJ Robert Simon
MAJ Mary Steele
COL Ramon Sudo
LTC James Tomko
LTC George Van Otten
CW2 Oliver White
LTC Hubert Wilkins
LtCol Fred Workley

PERSONAL AFFAIRS
by Terrie M Gent, Col., USAF (Ret.)

MOAA Raises Over $2000 for Honor Flight
by Terrie M. Gent

This newsletter brings a grateful salute to everyone who made donations to the campaign to raise $2000 for the Honor Flight Program. Bob Abney, our most esteemed treasurer, is still receiving checks, but it's clear that we will raise over $2000. This is fantastic! We hope that everyone reading this will come to the January meeting where we will present a really big check to Robert (Bob) Simon, the Honor Flight Coordinator for Cochise County. Bob Simon will be our speaker at the January meeting. He is also going to see if he can persuade one of the Honor Flight participants to come, too, to share the highlights of his or her trip. Well done, everyone.

That was good news. Now for some mixed good and bad news. First, the bad news: 22 veterans commit suicide everyday. Now, the good news: Senator John McCain, along with a strong bipartisan group of his colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee, is introducing legislation to require the DoD and VA to hire an outside third party to examine suicide prevention programs. When enacted, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act of 2014, will provide additional resources for veterans who suffer from mental health disorders that place them at a higher risk of suicide. It will ensure that existing suicide prevention programs are reviewed to determine which ones work and get rid of those that don't, improve collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Service Organizations, and provide incentives to attract more psychiatrists to treat veterans through the VA. Senator McCain's office says that, "Our nation has a long way to go to decrease the rate of suicide among our veterans and we must do much better in fulfilling our responsibilities to care for those who have risked everything on behalf of their fellow Americans."

PERSONAL AFFAIRS (cont)

What I hear from veterans themselves, from veterans service organizations, and from staff members who work for the VA (!), is that the VA, even now, after the huge scandal in Phoenix, still does not have enough mental health professionals in Arizona to meet the needs of all their patients in a timely manner. When you get a chance to talk to elected officials or candidates for office (it seems like campaigns are constant now) please keep doing what officers and their spouses must do: *take care of the troops*. Insist that all VA patients get timely and competent mental health care within a reasonable commute. Our brethren and sistren in Phoenix and Tucson are slightly better off than we rural veterans, but improvement for everyone will only occur when there is the political will to make it so.

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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT by COL John Black, USA Ret

I am happy to report our scholarship process is right on schedule. All high schools in the county have received our scholarship packets and I have been receiving inquiries from possible applicants.
In case you know any students that might be interested in applying for one of our scholarships, here are the key dates you can pass on to them.
20 February 2015: Applications are due to me NLT COB on Friday 20 February.
27 February 2015: Interviews will be conducted at the Sierra Vista Library during the afternoon for students who meet the minimum requirements.
March 2015: Scholarship winners will be recognized at the regular Chapter dinner in March.
If you have any questions about our scholarship program, just ask--I would be glad to discuss our program in detail.

As we begin the new year this would be an excellent time to show your support to our program and students that will be awarded chapter scholarships this year. I encourage you to make an annual donation to the scholarship fund. I want to thank those of you that have already made your annual contributions."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.
John

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Sierra Vista Community Chorus Entertains us at the December Dinner Meeting

TREASURER'S UPDATE by Robert Abney, COL, USA (Ret)

These are the final 2014 Treasurer's Heliogram comments and I want to congratulate and thank each of you for your continued support and generosity. 2014 has been one of the chapter's most successful financial years, evidenced by the fact that we were able to support a number of military related community functions, offer eight 2014 scholarships to worthy scholars, support the Veteran of the Year Award and luncheon, Host the Arizona Council of Chapters and Support the Honor Flight effort to afford WWII veterans to opportunity to visit their memorial in Washington DC.

I need to point out that monthly dinner costs have risen to the point that we have little flexibility in terms of cancelation refunds. We give the country club the final number of attendees on the Monday before the dinner and are charged for that number of meals regardless of whether the meals are consumed. The bottom line is that we can handle cancellations prior to the Monday before the dinner, but not afterward. Once we provide the meal numbers to the club, consider a reservation made is a reservation paid.

Let me also remind anyone who has not remitted their 2015 dues, that dues need to be paid as of 31 December. Your membership support keeps the chapter viable and supports chapter operations.

Please send membership checks made payable to **MOAA.** Fees remain $15.00 for regular members and $10.00 for auxiliary members. You can also use the membership application in the Heliogram and mail them to:

Treasurer (Dues)
Coronado Chapter, Military Officers Association
PO Box 1685
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

Happy New Year to all.

Bob Abney

We have been informed that the Fort Huachuca Chaplain's food locker is in great need of non-perishable food items to support needy military families, especially through the Holiday Period. Suggest we all bring a bag or two of non-perishable food to the next two dinner meetings (December and January).

P.S. They will accept money as well. Checks should be made out the "Chaplains Tithes and Offerings Fund" (CTOF).

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Bernie Stalmann
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VA OFFERS DENTAL INSURANCE PROGRAM

VA is partnering with Delta Dental and Metlife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning November 15, VA announced. There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may complete an application online through either Delta Dental (www.deltadentalvadip.org) or Metlife (www.metlife.com/vadip) beginning November 15. For more info on VADIP, visit www.va.gov/health

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 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 _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS by JANUARY 8, 2015

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")

Please change the following information for me: Address _____
Phone: _____ *Email:* _____

Contact person for reservations is Ron Pflipsen, phone 417-0175, email: pflip1@mac.com

CORONADO CHAPTER
2015 CHAPTER RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name _____ **First** _____ **Initial** _____ **Spouse First Name** _____
Rank _____ **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** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I am currently a member in good standing with MOAA._____,
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 COL (R) Allen Rossow at (520) 439-4144, alrossow@cox.net**