



**MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Arizona Council of Chapters**

**MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**

**0800 Hours, Saturday, 4 November 2017**

**HOSTED BY THE YUMA CHAPTER**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Arizona Council of Chapters**

**President:** Lt Col Dick Jonas  
**Vice President:** COL Peter Kloeber  
**Legislative Affairs:** Lt Col Darren Venters  
**Personal Affairs:** CDR John Chernoski  
**ESGR:** Capt Ed Mangan  
**Newsletter Editor:** Mrs. Mary Jonas  
**Past President:** COL Allen Rossow  
**Past President:** CAPT Dan Conway

**Arizona Chapter  
Coronado Chapter  
Grand Canyon Chapter**

**President Elect:** LTC Ron Bright  
**President:** COL Bob Covalucci  
**President:** LTC Steve Jarvis  
Lt Col Joyce Kloeber

**Green Valley Chapter  
Luke Chapter**

**President:** LCDR Jim Knox  
**President:** Col Mike Kramer  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** LTC Dennis DeFrain

**Northern Arizona Chapter  
Superstition Mountain Chapter**

**President:** LCDR Clyde Meade  
**Past President:** Capt Ed Mangan  
Ann Schminke

**Central Arizona Satellite  
Tucson Chapter  
Yuma Chapter**

**President:** CWO4 Harold Fales  
**President:** COL Tom Owens  
**President:** LT James Adler  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Lt Col Nicholas Knight  
**Legislative & Personal Affairs:** Capt Donald Eskam  
**Treasurer:** COL Robert Filbey  
**Past President:** LCDR William Bonsky  
John Gleason

**Guest Speaker:** Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President/CEO MOAA

**Chaplain:** LT Abraham Jiregna, Command Chaplain, MCAS Yuma

1. **Call to Order:** Lt Col Dick Jonas called the meeting to order at 0800 hours. Lt Col Jonas welcomed everyone and also thanked LT Jim Adler for hosting the social the evening prior.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Lt Col Jonas led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Invocation:** The invocation was given by Abraham Jiregna, Chaplain, MCAS Yuma.
4. **Welcome by Yuma Chapter:** LT Jim Adler welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief history of MCAS Yuma.
5. **Introduction of Guest Speaker:** Lt Col Dick Jonas introduced our guest speaker, Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President/CEO of MOAA.

**Guest Speaker: Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President/CEO, Military Officers Association of America**

- Opening remarks:
  - MOAA selected as one of the “Top 20 Lobbying Associations in Washington D.C., for the 11th consecutive year and the only military organization.
  - MOAA is 4<sup>th</sup> largest VSO behind only the VFW, American Legion, and DAV.
  - MOAA is now “at the table” with the VA’s “Big 6” – VFW, American Legion, DAV, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.
  - MOAA is now “at the table” with the Defense Health Agency.
  - MOAA Councils and Chapters are the key to MOAA’s advocacy success.
- A few “hot button” issues from the “FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)”
  - President/DOD budget proposals – long battles to still come
  - TFL spared, but Tricare fees may increase due to increases in “Healthcare Expense Index (HEI) – a new standard. The Tricare “grandfather” provision may be eliminated.
  - Actual DOD healthcare costs continue to decline.
  - Pay raises for currently serving proposed at 2.1% - need 2.4 to match Employment Cost Index (ECI) annual increase and 2.9 to catch up to ECI standard.
  - Provided list of MOAA NDAA Priorities and respective House and Senate proposals.
  - NDAA Proposal to tweak the Blended Retirement System.
  - Need to eliminate the SBP-DIC Offset (Widow’s Tax).
- Lt Gen Atkins closed his presentation with a video on MOAA’s “Strategic Plan 2017 to 2021”
  - The plan sets goals for the organization within six major areas: Advocacy, Membership, Engagement, Councils and Chapters, Finances, and Organizational Capacity.
  - It also identifies specific strategies for staff and board members to achieve each of these goals.
  - The plan can be viewed at:  
[http://www.moaa.org/uploadedFiles/Content/About\\_MOAA/MOAA\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_2017.pdf](http://www.moaa.org/uploadedFiles/Content/About_MOAA/MOAA_Strategic_Plan_2017.pdf)

**Presentation of Levels of Excellence (LOE) Awards:** Lt Gen Atkins presented the 2016 LOE Certificates and streamer pins to the Council and ALL nine chapters. Each of the following recipients earned a 5-Star Award – the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for such accomplishment for Arizona: Arizona Council of Chapters and the following nine chapters: Arizona, Coronado, Grand Canyon, Green Valley, Luke, Northern Arizona, Superstition Mountain, Tucson and Yuma.

[Photos are available from Mary Jonas (928-636-2259 or [mgjonas@cableone.net](mailto:mgjonas@cableone.net))]

## 6. State Council Staff Reports

- a. **Secretary** – Lt Col Dick Jonas (for Mrs. Pam Wojtas) – Approval of 24 May 2017 Meeting Minutes – the minutes were unanimously approved.
- b. **Legislative Affairs** – Lt Col Darren Venters – Presentation “State Legislative Activism”
- Getting started – recommended ideas
  - Establish Alliances with Veterans’ Groups
  - Establish Communications Network
  - Engage Local Representatives & Lawmakers
  - Do Your Homework & “Own the Issue”
  - “No Plan Survives the First Shot” timing and Momentum are important
  - Unifying goals – key issues for Arizona
    - Eliminate State Tax on Military Retirement Pay
      - Gen Atkins stated a study is in progress on this issue for Military Retirees in California. The results should be available in December 2017.
    - Military Family Relief Fund Reform (Fund expires Dec 2018)
  - First step for Arizona
    - Establish a Communications Network in your chapter with a POC for your Legislators.
    - Lee Lange and Darren Venters are working on a plan for Storming the Arizona Capital (using a grant from USAA).
  - Two related comments:
    - If traveling to state legislative hearings for MOAA, mileage is deductible
    - The Request to Speak application allows you to sign in, register your opinion and leave a comment for the committee members. You do not have to speak to give your opinion to the committee. The new online Request to Speak application is available for you to sign up to speak without having to be at the capitol (<https://apps.azleg.gov/RequestToSpeak/UpcomingAgendas>). HOWEVER, THE FIRST TIME YOU SIGN UP you must go to the capitol and register. After that you can register from home.
- c. **ESGR** – Capt Ed Mangan – Slide presentation of program key points.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Arizona Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (AZ-ESGR) and the Arizona Council of Chapters of MOAA was signed on 16 May 2014.
  - ESGR Awards to employers recognize their support and are initiated by the person(s) being supported. The desire is to standardize the awards and have respective presentations done in a suitable environment, e.g., chapter meetings.
  - A Post-Deployment slide presentation is available for chapter use.
  - There is a 9-person team of attorneys to address employee issues/problems.
  - To find which employers are on the list, contact Ed Mangan (602-501-0128; [emangan3@aol.com](mailto:emangan3@aol.com)) or go to: [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)
- d. **Treasurer’s Report** – Lt Col Dick Jonas (for Col Lee Lange) – Lt Col Jonas handed out/presented two AZCOC financial documents:
- Financial Statement for 11/14/2016 – 11/4/2017 – for information
  - Projected Budget for 11/2017 – 11/2018 – for approval. The budget was approved as presented.

- e. **Surviving Spouse Liaison** – Lt Col Dick Jonas (for Shirley Philips) – Lt Col Jonas commended Shirley Philips (not present due to health) for her outstanding job as the Surviving Spouse Liaison, a position from which she will soon be retiring. Dick mentioned Shirley will be receiving the MOAA President’s Award (her Chapter will present it) and the Council is nominating her for the MPAA Surviving Spouse Award.
- f. **Transition** – Lt Col Dick Jonas (for CW3 Harry Bowen) – Discussed the process of notifying chapters of job openings and job fairs. A good question was asked: Is there a way to learn anything about the results of our Transition Program – who gets hired and how (direct contact, job fairs, etc.)? Dick will pass this on to Harry.
- g. **Personal Affairs** – CDR John Chernoski – Discussed the benefits of flood insurance for homeowners; everyone should do a “Risk Assessment” of their property. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center provides an interactive map (by entering an address) at: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>
- h. **Chapter Development** – COL Allen Rossow – No report

## 7. New Business

- a. **“Be Connected” Program** – Col Pete Kloeber – Presentation on a statewide effort to strengthen support and resources for the 600,000+ service members, veterans and their families in Arizona. Showed three videos to introduce program – handed out DVD with videos to each chapter.
  - Six Leadership Partners – work in coordination with Sen McCain’s office
    - AZ Coalition for Military Families
    - AZ Health Care Cost Containment System
    - AZ Dept of Veterans’ Services
    - AZ National Guard
    - Dept of Veterans Affairs
    - TriWest Healthcare Alliance
  - Program Partners – e.g., NAMI, Phoenix & Mesa PDs, Veterans Mental Health Council
  - Site partners – Organizations that actively participate in the program
  - Target Helper Roles
    - VSOs
    - AZ Veteran Supportive Campuses
    - First Responders
    - VA Vet Centers
  - Geographic Regions – aligned with VA Healthcare Systems in AZ
    - Northern AZ (Prescott)
    - Central AZ (Phoenix Metro)
    - Southern AZ (Tucson)
    - Navajo County (Show Low)
  - Program Components
    - CALL – 24/7 support line (1-866-4AZ-VETS)
    - MATCH – To navigate to the right resource for each person
    - LEARN – Training, online and in-person
    - Who can help? – anyone and everyone – **YOU!**
      - **Care, Listen, Connect** (to 24/7 support line)
      - For questions/training – Contact Team: 602-753-8802; [connect@arizonacoalition.org](mailto:connect@arizonacoalition.org)

**b. Arizona Council of Chapters Semiannual Update – Lt Col Dick Jonas**

- Gold Bar Program – will not be continued in lieu of MOAA cancelling financial support
- ROTC/JROTC Awards – will continue with added MOAA financial support (USAA funds)
- Continue to encourage development of Satellite Chapters (AZ has 4 of 16 MOAA-wide)
- 2018 MOAA National Meeting and LOE Awards banquet to be in Phoenix (30 Oct – 2 Nov)
- The plan is to hold the Fall 2018 Arizona Council of Chapters meeting in conjunction with the MOAA Annual Meeting (details TBD). As a result, the Arizona Chapter has offered to host the Council meeting and the Coronado Chapter will now be hosting the Spring 2020 Council meeting.

**c. Chapter and Satellite Semiannual Updates**

- **Arizona Chapter – LTC Ron Bright**
  - Membership numbers are status quo and working hard on recruitment
  - Need to once again work leadership succession – an area in previous good shape
  - Plan on establishing a past-president advisory council
  - Need to recruit talent to support some 113 veteran service organizations in Phoenix area
- **Coronado Chapter – COL Robert Covalucci**
  - Will celebrate 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 2018
  - Provides awards to Distinguished Graduates of military courses
  - Surviving Spouse (SSP) members represent 13% of membership (25 of 193); honored them with MOAA SSP Pins at a dinner; amended bylaws to allow SSPs to serve on board
  - Created Facebook page for members only
  - 23 members have been selected for the AVHoF
  - Request MOAA provide email addresses on “potential chapter member” rosters
- **Grand Canyon Chapter – LTC Steve Jarvis**
  - Membership growth and retention
    - Use MOAA Potentials Roster, personal contact
    - Newspaper announcements
    - Chapter newsletters to prospective members and other VSOs
    - Encourage MOAA Life Membership
    - Remind of membership benefits/inclusion
  - Effective meeting management
    - Monthly meetings with diverse/meaningful speakers
  - Community involvement and visibility
    - Face-to-face with U.S. Representative
    - Involved in all veteran-based activities/meetings
  - Successful awards and scholarship program
    - Awards for ROTC (2) and JROTC (5) programs
    - Scholarship awards for AF and Army ROTC programs at NAU
    - New scholarship for honorably discharged veteran at NAU Veteran Success Center
  - Leadership succession planning
    - Elected President, 1st & 2nd VPs and Directors
    - Appointed Secretary and Treasurer – flexibility to get the right person
    - 2-year terms

- **Green Valley Chapter** – LCDR Jim Knox
  - Healthy finances
    - Great community support and grant writing
    - Planned expenses paid for a year in advance
    - New rigid accounting practices and annual audits
  - General membership status
    - Viable and stable, but getting older (average age 75+)
    - Active members getting burned out
    - Finally started to drop nonparticipating, non-dues paying members (21)
    - Rebuilding this year / changing from “knife & fork” mentality – 11 new members
    - Trying to get younger member, but not very successful
  - New website and newsletter
  - Biggest community attraction is support given to JROTC units
  
- **Luke Chapter** – Col Mike Kramer & LTC Dennis DeFrain
  - Accomplishments 2016 – 2017
    - Robust dinner programs
    - Scholarship program - \$24,600 to 16 students
    - Professionalized accounting system
    - Chaplain’s program
    - 501(c)(3) Scholarship Fund (updated articles of incorporation)
    - Enhanced website
    - Donations supported five veteran and active duty charitable organizations
    - Robust JROTC award programs
    - Annual audits, member surveys, self-assessments and strategic plan
  - Goals 2017 – 2018
    - Develop marketing plan to recruit unaffiliated MOAA members – sending multi-colored post card mailer to 400 potential members from MOAA’s list
    - Increase membership by 10% to 260 by year-end
    - Increase scholarship fund “spend account” by at least 10% from \$24K to \$27K
    - Revitalize SSP program
    - Judiciously award monies received from MOAA national
  
- **Northern Arizona Chapter** – LCDR Clyde Meade
  - Accomplishments 2016 – 2017
    - Pickle ball tournament (2) – raised funds and increased public awareness
    - Annual Veterans Town Hall
    - Veterans Day parade
    - Support of veterans Stand Down
  - Goals 2017 – 2018
    - Growth of chapter and satellites
    - Community involvement
    - Do more than just “meet and greet” luncheons
    - Work with other veteran’s organization toward common goals
  - Challenges
    - Meeting attendance
    - Member participation
    - Conflicting membership in other military/veteran based organizations
  - **Mojave Satellite**
    - Proud of their progress
    - Sponsored two WWII veterans for Honor Flights to Washington D.C.

- **Superstition Mountain Chapter** – Capt Ed Mangan
  - Have 10 new members, now at 107
  - Support 19 JROTC programs
  - Finances growing around 3% per month
  - Chapter and SSPs are active in several community programs to assist veterans and families
    - Hygiene kits for homeless veterans and “heart pillows” for hospitalized veterans
  - **Central Arizona Satellite**
    - Will take over support for three of home chapter’s JROTC programs
    - Member of Chamber of Commerce
    - Website in progress and Facebook page
    - Sponsoring golf tournament to help education system
      - Arizona City Golf Club 24 Mar 2018
      - Contact Harold Fales at 573-308-8372; [droamin@gmail.com](mailto:droamin@gmail.com)
  
- **Tucson Chapter** – Col Tom Owens
  - Membership
    - Continuing recruitment efforts
    - MOAA potentials list of little value without email addresses
    - Need to fill Membership Chair position
  - Officers
    - Continue to seek replacements
    - Most have been in positions for several years and many in dual positions
  - Fund Raising
    - Work with local restaurants for cost sharing – usually around 15 – 20% of receipts
  - Meeting speakers
    - Mix of military and civilian speakers
    - Utilize Davis-Monthan AFB as good resource and for tours
  - ROTC/JROTC
    - Support U of A ROTC and four JROTC programs
  
- **Yuma Chapter** – LT Jim Adler
  - Maintain and emphasize what the chapter does best
    - Young American Awards – USAA grant
    - Graduating senior scholarship
    - Veterans Day visits
    - JROTC support
  - Increase membership
    - Maintaining status quo
    - Difficult to find new members due to deployment schedule at MCAS Yuma
  - Improve programs
    - No increase at meeting attendance
    - Some success getting speakers from MCAS Yuma
  - Expand pool of prospective chapter officers – difficulty doing so

## **8. Good of the Order / Chapter Roundtable**

### **a. Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (AVHoF) Submissions**

- The Tucson Chapter feels the Tucson area is being neglected and is seeking feedback on the process and nomination packages. Dan Conway responded saying he was on two selection committees and that there is absolutely no preference given to geographic areas; all selections are based on the individual application and performance with the letters of recommendation being the most critical element.
- Pete Kloeber asked the Coronado Chapter what they are doing – specifically their letters of recommendation – since they have 23 Chapter members in the AVHoF. Bob Covalucci said they obtain letters from their mayor, other VSOs, etc.
- Lt Col Jonas said the AVHoF is offering seminars on preparing nomination packages.

### **b. Chapter Liability Insurance – Col Pete Kloeber**

- Presented a proposal that would provide Liability Insurance for the Council and ALL nine chapters – included the following:
  - Details of coverage and limits
  - Total quoted premium billed to Council and pro-rated cost per chapter based on membership numbers
  - Availability to add an optional umbrella policy
  - Comparison of costs from a 2<sup>nd</sup> insurance company
- Would save most chapters at least 40% compared to individual policy
- Lt Col Dick Jonas asked chapter presidents/representatives to take proposal to chapters/boards and respond to him by 15 Dec 2018.

### **c. New LOE Rating Criteria and Scoring – Lt Col Jonas**

- Discussed the handout from MOAA and the changes to the “objective” and “subjective” criteria and respective scoring for both councils and chapters.
- The new Chapter and Council Rating Sheets are effective immediately and will be used for the 2017 LOE submissions.
- New submittal deadline will be 1 May of each year.

## **9. Next Council Meeting – The Spring 2018 Council Meeting will be hosted by the Luke Chapter.**

- Chapter Dinner – Thursday, 10 May 2018
- Council Meeting – Friday, 11 May 2018

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Col Pete Kloeber, USAF (Ret)

Vice President, AZCOC

For Mrs. Pam Wojtas

AZCOC Secretary

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**FUTURE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HOSTS**

**SPRING**

2018: Luke Chapter  
2019: Grand Canyon Chapter  
2020: Coronado Chapter  
2021: Northern Arizona Chapter  
2022: Yuma Chapter

**FALL**

2018: Arizona Chapter  
2019: Green Valley Chapter  
2020: Tucson Chapter  
2021: Superstition Mountain Chapter