

DESERT MUSTANGS

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Well the year of 2019 has passed but not without a notable event, our 25th Anniversary.

The chapter was honored by the attendance, at the anniversary lunch, of our last Association President Alex Childress. Unfortunately he had to resign because of his business. The position of President was then filled by Joe Featherston, a classmate of mine from the 1966, 7th Warrant Class. Joe's guidance I am sure will produce positive results for the chapter.

MEETING- We are looking for positive attendance at our upcoming meeting in February. The meeting is scheduled for the 15th at the VFW Post in Casa Grande. Directions to the Post will be published the first of February. We will be discussing a variety of goals: the future of the chapter, recruitment of new memberships, retention of our older members and the support of the MCIROTC units.

It is essential, especially for Yuma members to recruit from the active personnel from the Air Station and retirees living in the area. A reminder reserve and veteran officers are eligible to join. The other areas of the state needing attention are Tucson, Sierra Vista, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu and Prescott, areas I am sure have a Mustang or two. Contact will be made to address the cities through their local newspapers.

BINGO – We established a Quarterly Bingo Session for Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix a couple of years ago and the sessions were well received. Unfortunately in 2019 we had to cancel two sessions, one because of my wife's health and the other in November because of the lack of members willing to attend and assist. We would like to resume again. We are scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday at 1430 in February, but we will need to know if members can assist by no later than the 10th of February. This way we will know can provide support with soft drinks(diet), cookies, chips etc. Sessions are from 1430-1530. E-MAIL captaingeorgemeegan@gmail.com, phone 480-897-8835 or 480-765-1466.

SPECIAL NOTE – There is a Veterans Home in Tucson and one that is being built or has been in Yuma. Places where we can be recognized and illustrate that the Chapter and the Association is not made of old veterans and retirees who do nothing but eat, drink and sleep.

MCIROTC – As in the past years we will again present awards (plaque and \$100 cash) to the outstanding cadet of each unit. Cadet is selected by the unit members not the instructors. As we are supporting seven (7) schools we need sponsors, sponsorship is \$150.00. We insure that sponsors names are noted at the presentations. This will keep our treasury solvent as the only income we generate is from our local dues. Schools are Casa Grande, Vista Grande, Tolleson, Westview(Peoria), Coolidge, Kofa(Yuma) and Tuba City (Navaho Reservation).

Award presentations usually commence in late April early May. If you are available and would be willing to be a presenter, let me know by the first(1st) of April. I have been the primary presenter for over 20 years and normally I am available but it would be good for another member to step forward for one or two the schools.

NOTE – 1st Sgt Rameirez , senior instructor at Coolidge, was honored at our Anniversary Lunch for his 25 years service and retirement. Unfortunately his retirement was short lived as his replacement bailed out after 2 weeks into the school year and the 1st Sgt. Was asked to resume his role as senior instructor. His popularity with school is overwhelming. However, they are still seeking a replacement to allow him to retire but as of this newsletter he is still chugging on with the task.

MUSTANG ASSOCIATION – A) If you are not on the e - mailing list contact the BusinessManager@marinecorpsmustang.org. This way you will receive the association newsletter when it is published.

B. If you did not receive a copy of the Spring Newsletter from the Association let me know. I will send you a copy, also. To ensure delivery in the future, please give me your e-mail and home address. This way I can check my list is current.

MEMBER NEWS – 2019 saw us join two new members : Major Mark Ballinger of Oro Valley and Major Dennis Johnson of Maricopa. This enhances our coverage of the state but as stated earlier we need to hear about others from other areas.

I hope your year went well and look forward to seeing old and new members in February at the meeting and Bingo session. Take care let me hear from you if you have questions, concerns etc.

Semper Fi

George B. Meegan

1st Vice President