

TCC Chapter Reports, 1st Qtr 2008

Chapter Report

Feb 9, 2008

Highland Lakes Chapter - MOAA

1. Membership getting older. (same as everyone else)
2. No Active Duty source in the area.
3. Scholarships: No ROTC , JROTC in the area. Tried to establish a scholarship program for widows/surviving spouses of Fort Hood soldiers who were going back to college. Identified recipients but they did not complete registration or did not attend the classes. We dropped this program. We will try to receive OK from donors to transfer the funds to the MOAA Scholarship Fund.
4. Attendance has dwindled. Went to quarterly meetings. Not much change. Have held luncheon meetings. About the same response. Provide transport for folks who do not drive at night. Very few takers.
5. Still trying!!!

RIO GRANDE VALLEY--CHAPTER 27
TCC QUARTERLY REPORT

We've been working to put into action some of the suggestions from the President's Symposium. We had created a sheet that we mailed to retirees listed on the prospective members' list that MOAA sent us. We put these on bulletin boards in Winter Texan R V parks around the Valley. We have contacted JROTC instructors with letters. We will follow up when we deliver MOAA medals to them. I hope we are successful because our numbers are going down. We currently have 25 members.

We have mailed about 28 letters to JROTC instructors asking if they want us to send them a MOAA medal for their Spring event.

We continue to have very good speakers.

We are still mailing boxes to Iraq.

Alice Karr
Secretary, RGV Chapter 27

North DFW Military Officers Association, TX 31

1st Quarter Report to Texas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America

9 February 2008

Leadership:

North DFW Military Officers Association just celebrated their 7th anniversary as a chapter. Chapter members elected a new board in Nov 2007, and officers were installed in Dec 2007.

Board members remain the same, except for one. Dale Miller left the board and Bob Little, Jr. rejoined the board. Bob was a Past President of the chapter. Dick Johnston started his third year as president. We added an additional board member, Keith Lockhart. Keith took over the position of Personal Affairs, since it

was too much for the Membership Chair to effectively do both jobs. We also have a new board member, Bruce Balvin, who will train to take over as Newsletter Editor. We are still looking for a new Scholarship Chair, as our current chair, Tom Lytle, will leave his position in May 2008.

Membership:

We ended 2007 with 110 members. That is an increase of 15 members, or 16% increase over 2006. We added 23 new chapter members, but lost 8 members. We recruited 13 new members for national MOAA, a 27% successful recruiting rate. We added 3 active duty and guard members, bringing us to 6 active duty, guard and reserve members. We are 50 miles from Carswell NAS/JRB in Fort Worth, and there is a chapter in Fort Worth. The currently serving members we've recruited live in our local area. We experienced the death of one member; just one month after our Personal Affairs Officer attended the Personal Affairs Workshop at the Chapter Presidents Symposium.

Community Activities:

Our chapter was very involved in Veterans Day ceremonies. Walter Dyer received the Congressional Veterans Commendation from Rep Michael Burgess at a luncheon in Highland Village. Several members helped plan and participated in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony in Flower Mound, TX. Members also participated in the dedication ceremony of the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Flower Mound. Board members attended a local high school for a Veterans Day salute and spoke with the students in the classrooms afterwards.

Our 1st Vice President, Bob Little, served at the Skyball V Fundraiser, which raises funds for the family members of deployed troops in the North Texas area. This fundraiser directly benefits families of those serving at Carswell NAS/JRB in Fort Worth.

During the holidays, our chapter partnered with the USO at the DFW International Airport. Chapter members were at the airport greeting and serving snacks and meals for several events. Before and after Christmas, we were there in the middle of the night to greet troops from Fort Sill, Fort Bliss and Sheppard AFB, as they were flying home and returning from their holidays with their families. Christmas Day, chapter members served lunch to troops who deployed to Iraq that afternoon. We also welcomed the Air Force Academy football team and marching band as they arrived for the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. We took the cadets to the Meet & Greet area to welcome the troops coming through on the R&R flights.

For several months, our chapter has been collecting new children's books for the DFW USO United Through Reading Program. When troops deploy, they are set up

in a private living room setting and videotaped reading a book to their child. The videotape and book are then sent to the remaining spouse, so the child can experience "story time" with the parent who is gone. We will continue this project throughout 2008.

In December, we had a formal dinner and dancing at the Brook Hollow Golf Club, one of the TOP 100 private country clubs in the US. One of our chapter members is the manager, and arranged for a wonderful evening to celebrate Christmas.

Challenges:

1. With our growing membership, we are finding it more difficult to find locations for our general membership dinner meetings at a reasonable price. In 2006 we averaged 65 attendees; now we are hitting 80. With meal prices increasing, the board is working hard to find good locations and maintain a reasonable cost for our members to attend.
2. As with many groups, we have a core group who is willing to serve as board members. As some of these chapter leaders enter their 5th and 6th years on the board, they desire stepping aside and letting new leadership take over. Many of our members are retired and travel. A large proportion of our members are still working full-time and raising families. We are finding it difficult to find members willing to step up to a board position.

Goals for 2008:

1. Continued efforts in recruiting national and chapter members; meet GMT challenge
2. Continue to plan lively, entertaining, and informative programs at our general membership meetings, at a reasonable cost
3. Improve liaison with American Legion and VFW to determine common interests in the community
4. Obtain another 5-Star Award of Excellence for 2007
5. Reinvigorate our ROTC and JROTC scholarship program through contacts with the senior instructors.

Rose Marie Vickery, Lt Col, USAF, Ret
2nd Vice President, Membership
North DFW Military Officers Association

For
Richard H. Johnston, LTC, USA, Ret
President

North DFW Military Officers Association

CLEVELAND F. PRATT

5004 Pawnee Pathway
Wichita Falls, TX 76310
March 28, 2006

Subject: Quarterly Chapter Report - Wichita Falls Chapter (TX20)

David Patrick
Secretary
Texas Council of Chapters

CHAPTER REPORT:

At our last Chapter General Membership Meeting in December 2007 we elected our new officers for the 2008 year. The 2008 officers are: President - LTC C.J. Bausano, USAF; Vice-president - LTC Larry Petrash, USA (Ret); Secretary - LTC James Kincaid, USAF (Ret); Treasurer - LTC James Chilcott, USAF (Ret). LTC Bausano was re-elected to be able to complete her first term which was interrupted by her deployment to Qatar for six months. We are very pleased to have her back again.

Our 2008 Year started off with a Special Membership Meeting in January to introduce the new Executive Board and outline their new proposed activities to the membership. We are proposing to expand our MOAA Officership Award to more of the Officer Professional Training classes conducted at Sheppard AFB. This award has been very successful and well received by the ENJJPT Program conducted by the 80th Training Group. We also want to institute a Book Scholarship Program for the five high schools in the Wichita Falls area. This program is aimed at presenting scholarship funds to graduating high school students for the purchase of text books. To accomplish this we will have to raise the necessary money through fund raising activities. This is very much a "work in progress".

We are beginning our "Spring Membership Drive" to recruit new members from the active duty and retired communities to replace the active duty members who have recently transferred on to new assignments.

Cleveland F. Pratt
LTC USA (Ret)

TCC Auxiliary Report
Feb 2008

There are two important auxiliary matters:

1. Dependents Indemnity Compensation

On page 31 of February "The Military Officer", this is addressed under Survivor Benefit Plan. The FY2008 Defense Authorization Act authorizes a special payment of \$50.00 a month to survivors of members entitled to retired pay whose SBP annuities are reduced by VA survivor benefits, effective Oct. 1, 2008. This amount will increase by \$10.00 each year for five years. The new law also adopted the MOAA proposed provision requiring the DFAS to implement simplified recoupment processes to assist affected survivors. MOAA will continue to work for returning full DIC to the SBP annuity.

The January 11, 2008 MOAA update told us that a group of military widows was to go to court to claim that a December, 2004, law should have awarded them full SBP payment and DIC. The House Veterans Affairs Committee thought the language would restore DIC to SBP, but, as usual the government did not agree.

2. Possible Tricare For Life fee

Like the retired pay, the survivors' annuity will, in effect, be lessened if we must pay a TFL fee. No, doubt, Congress will increase it in the future.

I ask that you keep mailing in your letters to your Congressmen.

Hope you have created an Auxiliary Corner in your newsletters!

Alice Karr,
TCC Liaison to MOAA Auxiliary Committee

**El Paso President's Chapter Q1 Report to TCC at the Rose Capital Chapter in
Tyler, TX February 8/9, 2008**

<http://elpasomoaa.org/>

Chapter accomplishments since last report dated 10/5/2007 and presented at the Q4 TCC Meeting at the DFW Hilton:

1. Continuation of aggressive recruiting under 2007 GMT program from March 1 through December 31, 2007...elpasomoaa.org has recruited 424 Give Me Ten members.
2. Established The El Paso Chapter Scholarship Fund under MOAA national's 501(c)(3) Scholarship Fund.
3. Raised almost \$10,000 within the first four months our scholarship has been established.
4. 5x Board Meetings...
5. 3x General Membership Meetings...
6. Elected and installed new Officers and Board for 2008...
7. Began another active campaign to recruit under GMT provisions...
8. Submitted 2007 electronic and print media for Awards Review process...

Planned activities going forward for the remainder of Q1:

1. Conduct a No-Host joint MOAA, NAUS, and SMW "Day at the Races" at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino on 3/20...
2. Participate in JROTC Massing of the Colors on 3/29...
3. Represent MOAA national at the Bataan Memorial Death March Exercise 3/30/.2008 at White Sands Missile Range...
4. The El Paso Chapter is offering to sponsor as many as 4x Fort Bliss Active Duty Brigade level 5x person teams in the competition...
5. Conduct one General Membership Meeting on 2/9 for Q...
6. 2008 Calendar, attached...subject to changes...please, take note to those events now in the planning stage centering around 9/26 & 27...

Greater Dallas Chapter Report

TCC Meeting, Tyler, Texas

February 8.9, 2008

1. The Greater Dallas Chapter is still going strong despite some problems. Our membership total for 2008 is 373. Membership Chairman, Maj. Ira Richardson, is actively

pursuing ways to attract new members including the Give-Me-10 program.

Also our membership participation in Chapter activities has been down. In an attempt to counter this, our Chapter has changed from evening dinner meetings to a lunch meeting as many of our older members don't drive at night. Of course, attendance is influenced by the programs for the meetings.

2. Another problem is filling chapter Officer's positions. It is hard to find volunteers. Currently we do not have a Vice President-Elect nor a JROTC Coordinator. We currently service 42 high schools and award MOAA Medals to deserving cadets so this is a critical position.
3. On the brighter side, we have a very active Personal Officers Committee. Our Committee Chairman, Bob Rymal, helps surviving spouses with their needs such as getting new ID cards, getting benefits started and providing information about the various benefit programs.
4. We have an active program to "Meet and Greet" returning troops from Iraq/Afghanistan to DFW airport along with the USO.
5. We continue to explore ways to improve our financial situation. Our sources of reserve include annual dues, advertising in the monthly newsletter, cost for lunch meetings, etc.
6. We have a very active program to visit and send letters to local Congressmen/women. Post cards are passed out at meetings, signed by attendees and then mailed out. Finally, we have an excellent Scholarship program which awards 3-4 \$1,000 scholarships to JROTC cadets each year.

This concludes our report.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Gibbs
Col. USAF (Ret)

From: Maj. Mike Spaight, USAF (Ret), President MOAA, NE Texas Chapter

Subject: Quarterly Report to Texas Council of Chapters

To: Capt George Rymal, USN (Ret) TCC Secretary, Lt. Cmdr. Gilbert D. Rodriguez USNR (Ret), 2nd Vice Maj. James Cunningham, USAR (Ret)

The Northeast Texas Chapter's most recent meeting was held at Webb Hill Country Club on November 17th, 2007. Our guest speaker was Lt. Col. Les Cooks the Veterans Service officer for Hunt County. He was trying to stress the importance of registering with your local Veterans Service Officer in your county.

With his help we recently registered an 80 year old veteran and after many attempts successfully got him declared eligible for financial benefits. Unfortunately, he received just one check before he passed away. The good news is his widow will continue to receive the benefits.

The point of this is that we need to make sure all veterans, in good health or bad, register with the VA Service Officer. He works as an advocate for the veteran and will argue your case against the government.

We have signed up four new members since the first of the year. One of our new members is Colonel "Skip" Lane who is trying get a little "Horse Sense" into the VA.

Just East of the Bonham VA Hospital is a horse ranch that specializes in horse therapy for Autistic children. Col. Lane is trying to convince the hospital to utilized this ranch to aide our veterans returning from the war zone. This is something that I think our organization should get behind.

Our next meeting will be March 1st at Webb Hill Country Club with Dr. Keith McFarland the Chancellor of Texas A&M Commerce.

East Texas Chapter Report
TCC Meeting, Tyler, Texas
February 8.9, 2008

The East Texas Chapter of MOAA held its annual officer election and installation on February 2, 2008. Installed as President is Colonel John McManners, USA-Ret. Installed as Vice President is Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Jackson, USA Ret. Installed as Secretary/Treasurer is Lieutenant Commander Loran Rhine USN-Ret. We currently have 53 members on our mailing list and have 4-5 social events a year. Our main event is a golf tournament with the proceeds going to charity. There is a university here and we support the ROTC with scholarships and programs. Our key challenge is that our membership is getting older. Our goal for the year is to increase our members and get some younger blood in our group.

COL John A. McManners, USA (Ret)

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

AUSTIN MOAA CHAPTER REPORT

FEB 2008

THE AMOAA CHAPTER

GOOD MORNING. I AM COLONEL BILL DEL VECCHIO, USA, RET; PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTIN CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (AMOAA). MOAA ENCOMPASSES WHAT WE REFER TO AS THE GREATER AUSTIN AREA OF TRAVIS, ILLIAMSON, HAYS AND BASTROP COUNTIES IN THE CENTRAL TEXAS AREA. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 MOAA MEMBERS IN OUR CHAPTER AREA ACCORDING TO MOAA AND TCC. THE AUSTIN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP IS SLIGHTLY UNDER 300 OR 9 % OF THAT 3,000 FIGURE, BUT 85 % OF CHAPTER MEMBERS DO HAVE MEMBERSHIP IN MOAA NATIONAL. AS IN MOST CHAPTERS SENIOR AGE IS A MAJOR FACTOR: 45 % OF OUR - MEMBERS ARE 70-79 AND 30 % ARE 80+ YEARS OF AGE FOR A TOTAL OF 75 % OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. OUR CHAPTER MEETS MONTHLY AT A DINNER MEETING. WE WILL CELEBRATE OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR.

CHAPTER CHALLENGES # 1: MEMBERSHIP:

MEMBERSHIP IS BY FAR IS OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE AND TRY AS WE HAVE, WE HAVE NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ON-BOARD CURRENTLY SERVING ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD AND RESERVE OFFICERS, MOAA MEMBERS IN OUR CHAPTER AREA AND SOME OF OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS INTO MOAA MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE NOT BLESSED WITH ACTIVE MILITARY BASES IN OUR AREA, ALTHOUGH WE DO HAVE NATIONAL GUARD UNITS AT CAMP MABRY IN AUSTIN. WE ARE IN RECEIPT OF GENERAL CARNS' " THE YEAR OF THE CHAPTER" IN MOAA'S FEBRUARY EDITION OF MILITARY OFFICER AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN OUR CHAPTER SYSTEM AND BROADEN CHAPTERS" APPEAL TO CURRENT AND FUTURE MOAA MEMBERS. WE ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED THE ' GIVE ME 10" CHAPTER RECRUITMENT KIT FROM MOAA'S COUNCIL AND CHAPTER AFFAIRS TO ASSIST US IN OUR RECRUITING CAMPAIGN. ALL GREAT HELP FROM MOAA. ONE LAST COMMENT ON MEMBERSHIP. IN OUR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER WA DEVOTED TO " WHY WE SHOULD JOIN MOAA". I WROTE: AND I QUOTE: " IF YOU REVIEW THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MOAA OVER THESE PAST YEARS, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS."

CHAPTER CHALLENGE #2: PERSONAL AFFAIRS;

ANOTHER CHALLENGE BUT ONE WITH SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS THE EXPANSION OF OUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS. FOLLOWING THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED AT THE LAST OCTOBER MEETING IN GRAPEVINE, TEXAS AND MOAA'S BENEFITS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT,

WE HAVE FORMED A WORKING COMMITTEE , ARE COLLECTING THE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS, ARE ESTABLISHING NATIONAL AND LOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT, IDENTIFYING CHAPTER MEMBERS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ARE INVITING GUEST SPEAKERS TO DISCUSS PERSONAL AFFAIRS MATTERS WITH OUR MEMBERS AT OUR DINNER MEETINGS. OUR APPROACH IS TO NOT REINVENT THE WHEELSO TO SPEAK, BUT RATHER TO LOCALIZE WHAT MOAA HAS ALREADY DONE FOR US.

CHAPTER CHALLENGE # 3: PATRIOT FUND PROJECT:

THE PATRIOT PROJECT FUND PROGRAM WAS STARTED IN JULY, 2007 BY A GROUP OF CITIZENS AT LAKEWAY, TEXAS TO ASSIST IN THE REHABILITATION TO AN INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLE FOR THE SEVERELY WOUNDED WARRIORS RETURNING FROM THE WAR OF TERROR. THE INITIAL GOAL WAS TO RAISE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PURCHASE AN iBOT MOBILITY SYSTEM FOR ONE SOLDIER AT \$25,000 A COPY. THROUGH THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS, THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN RAISING DONATIONS AND PLEDGES FOR AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN iBOTS. AT THE URGING OF MOAA AND THE TCC, THE AUSTIN CHAPTER CONTACTED THE PATRIOT PROJECT COMMITTEE. AT OUR FIRST MEETING, WE INVITED THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PRESENT THEIR PROGRAM IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR TO OUR CHAPTER. THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF EXPLAINING THEIR CAMPAIGN FOR RAISING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PURCHASE AS MANY iBOTS AS IS POSSIBLE. IT IS AN ALL VOLUNTEER EFFORT WITH NO MONEY SET ASIDE FOR OVERHEAD. AT THE URGING OF OUR MEMBERS THE AUSTIN CHAPTER IS NOW ENGAGED IN CAMPAIGNING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS TREMENDOUSLY WORTHWHILE EFFORT. WE ARE ASKING OTHER MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE ON THIS PROGRAM AND I HAVE INVITED THE TCC TO ADD THIS PROGRAM TO THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING. I'M SUGGESTING THAT WE HAVE THE PATRIOT FUND PROJECT COMMITTEE ADDRESS OUR COUNCIL AND CHAPTERS ON THIS PROGRAM IN HOPES OF EXPANDING THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PURCHASE AS MANY iBOTS AS IS POSSIBLE FOR OUR SEVERELY WOUNDED SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM THE WAR ON TERROR. THE PRESENTATION COULD BE DONE IN ONE HOUR.

HERE IS HOW WE PLAN ON DOING THIS PROJECT. The AMOAA BOARD HAS AGREED TO A CONTRIBUTION PLAN WHEREBY OUR MEMBERS DONATE TO A CENTRAL COLLECTION POINT-THE AMOAA TREASURER-WHO, IN TURN, WILL DEPOSIT THE MONEY INTO THE AMOAA ACCOUNT UNTIL WE REACH OUR CONTRIBUTION CAPABILITY. AMOAA WILL FORWARD A CHECK ATTACHED TO A LETTER IDENTIFYING THE CONTRIBUTORS AND THE

RESPECTIVE DOLLAR AMOUNTS TO THE PATRIOT FUND PROJECT. THE PATRIOT FUND PROJECT IS UNDER THE 503c TAX PROGRAM. OUR MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE LETTER AND ATTACHED CHECK FOR USE AS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE INSTRUMENT WHEN FILING THEIR TAX RETURN. THE PRESENTATION BY THE PATRIOT FUND PROJECT COMMITTEE COULD BE DONE IN LESS THAN ONE HOUR.

CHAPTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ROTC

OUR SUPPORT OF TWENTY ROTC/JROTC PROGRAMS IN THE CENTRAL TEXAS AREA IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR OUR CHAPTER. WE PROVIDE SUPPORT TO: FIVE SENIOR LEVEL ROTC PROGRAMS AND FIFTEEN JROTC LEVEL PROGRAMS. AN OFFICER OF THE SERVICE AS THE SUPPORTED SCHOOL (NAVAL OFFICER TO A SCHOOL WITH A NAVAL PROGRAM) IS MATCHED FOR SUPPORT THAT RANGES FROM ATTENDANCE DURING DRILLS OR INSPECTIONS, PRESENTATIONS WHEN AWARDING MOAA MEDALS AND CERTIFICATES AT DESIGNATED TIMES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AND ASSISTING IN DETERMINING RECIPIENTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS GENERATED AT THE AMOAA LEVEL. WE ARE NOW AWARDING TWO \$500 DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIPS PER YEAR. WE RECENTLY HAD A SPEAKER AT OUR DINNER MEETING WHO COVERED A TYPICAL JROTC PROGRAM AS CONDUCTED AT A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL.

WEBSITE:

OUR WEBSITE HAS BEEN UP FOR THESE PAST TWO- THREE YEARS. IT COVERS MOAA/AMOAA HISTORY, REFERENCES TO OUR NEWSLETTERS, CHAPTER OFFICERS, CURRENT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO OUR MEMBERS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

BILL DEL VECCHIO, PRESIDENT, AMOAA

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Central Texas Chapter
P.O Box 2986
Harker Heights, Texas 76548

Summary of Activity
October 2007 through February 2008

The Chapter prides itself on good programs. The Board and membership feel strongly it is essential to have a program at every membership meeting. Programs for the last quarter of calendar year 2007 and January/February 2008 were:

October - Dr. (DVM) Jimmy Aycok, Texas Congressman from District 54. Dr. Aycok's presentation was on "How the Texas Legislature Works"

November - Election of Officers: President Col (Ret) Frank Somera; 1st Vice President, Col (Ret) Pat Christ; 2d Vice President, Col (Ret) Gene Wentworth; Secretary, Col (Ret) Jos Portmann; Treasurer, LTC (Ret) Tony Kosta; Directors: LTCOL (Ret) Spencer Smith; LtCol (Ret) Leonard Gulig, LTC (Ret) Norman Sliva, LTC (Ret) Borah VanDormolen, LTC (Ret) Keith Criss and LTC (Ret) Don Melton.

December - No chapter meeting

January - Installation of Officers and presentation "No Soldier or Family Left Behind" by Mr. Kent Fearn, Casualty Supervisor, III Corps Casualty Assistance Center, Fort Hood.

February - Colonel (Ret) Andy Bird, Deputy Garrison Commander, Fort Hood. Colonel Bird's presentation was on "An Iraq Perspective".

The program for March has not been announced; the program for April will find the chapter at the Killeen Fort Hood Regional Airport for a new equipment update.

In May, the chapter will host the quarterly Texas Council Chapters meeting. It will combine its regular monthly meeting with the TCC meeting.

Membership: Emphasis is continuously put on retaining and recruiting membership. At each chapter meeting, the 2d Vice President gives a briefing on how to recruit new members, incentives from chapter and national and provides "quick fill out" member applications for guest, potential members and for the billfold.

Projects: The Chapter's primary project is a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating High School Senior who enrolls in college and participates in an ROTC program. An on-going project is the potential for placing a memorial at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas. This project is expensive thus emphasis had been placed on fund raisers. The Chapter provides \$300 annually to the III Corps Protocol office in support of the monthly retirement ceremony and \$60 to the Area Veterans Advisory Council. The Chapter also supports TCC with a prorated share from chapter funds. A meal is provided to the guest speaker and they are presented with an engraved desk clock.

The Chapter participates and supports the Texas Council of Chapters. Chapter Board Member Spencer Smith is the First Vice President of the TCC. The Chapter's Personal Affairs Chairperson actively participates in area forums.

The chapter will continue emphasis on programs, membership and fund raisers. A major task will be support of the quarters TCC conference in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Jos Portmann
Secretary

Chapter Report Alamo Chapter 1st Qtr 08 TCC Meeting, Tyler, TX

The Alamo Chapter is alive and well with significant organizational and leader initiatives being pursued. The chapter made a diligent effort to recruit more leaders onto our staff, then empowered them to take responsibility for their functions. The model has been successfully built on a "TEAM" (Together Everyone Achieves More approach). This has resulted in the chapter's first ever Vision Statement, a new Mission statement, a first ever Strategic Plan and an Operational Action Plan that will take our chapter very proactively into the 21st Century.

Credit goes to each member of the leadership team for their services and talent in making the effort successful. From the plan, an organizational chart, complete with definitive position descriptions, has been finalized. The strategic plan and the collateral projects have received formal Board approval.

The Operational Action Plan is a formal document to bring success and guidance to each staff position. We are now ready to use our members in various volunteer

capacities. We have asked them to call our Volunteer Coordinator to let us know how they would like to help.

During 2007, the office moved from its historical location on Grayson Street, to a temporary office in Schertz before finding another home on Fort Sam Houston in the American Red Cross building.

A formal web site is now available for up-to-date and other relative information. The address is www.alamomoaa.org. Please check it out.

Team Lariat continues to work hard to produce the newsletter. It is now available in hard copy or electronic versions. It is a major conduit to our membership with the most up-to-date news. The Lariat was expanded from 12 to 16 pages with wider distribution initiatives as well as moving toward financial support by monthly ads.

Hand in hand with the leadership, the planning, the web site, and the expanded newsletter initiatives, we have also worked diligently at expanding our Public Relations and branding initiative. The very important Personal Affairs and Political Advocacy missions continue to receive high priority.

With membership recruiting front and center, we continue to recruit active duty, retired, guard and reserve members. Also, a strategy has been developed wherein we are visiting senior commanders in our area and are providing them with an honorary membership to the Chapter. The thinking is that the commanders can see the good in the organization and will be encouraging subordinate officers to consider joining.

Our Chapter programs have picked up in attendance, and we have had some of the highest attendance numbers of late.

We maintain an active interest in our Scholarship Program, the JROTC, and ROTC award presentations, and continue to actively support military organizations, i.e., PX Committee, Veterans Administration Hospital and the Fort Sam Houston Volunteer Advisory Council. The very active "cookie angel" program is a highlight for the wounded warriors, as well as their decorating the VA Hospice ward for the holiday season. The Chapter adopted the Warriors and Family Support Center providing badly needed toiletry items and other necessities on a monthly basis.

All in all, year 2007 was an impressive year for our Chapter. All is in place to build upon this "new" MOAA Alamo Chapter model. It will, however, only be as successful as the membership will permit. With their active participation and involvement our 4-Star Chapter will be in a position to again attain a 5-Star Award which symbolizes

excellence in a chapter organization. We can, and will, work hard to attain that in year 2008.

Gil Rodriguez, LCDR, USN (Ret)
Deputy Exec VP

ROSE CAPITAL CHAPTER

February 15, 2008

Rose Capital Chapter First Quarter Report ~ Texas Council of Chapters

Membership : Present 107 members. Number to join in 2007 ~ 17

Members lost 2007 - 14

Reasons for loss - 2 deaths, 2 relocated, 2 other interests

8 failing health and aging issues.

Goal - To increase our membership in the Chapter. We are again participating in the "Give Me Ten" Recruitment Campaign for National ~ in doing so hope to increase our membership.

- Improve our visibility in the East Texas community by better newspaper & TV coverage of our events and submit a Press Release of all events with guest speakers and other programs. Periodically put an advertisement in newspaper with the Chapter information at minimal expense.
- More involvement in the local community events through the Chamber of Commerce giving us more recognition. Invite local dignitaries to our events such as Mayor and Council Members.

Goals within the Chapter -

- More involvement of the present membership in the Chapter events.
- Create more opportunities for members to become involved.
- Improve the communication between the Board of Officers and the membership and improve communication between members with one another.
- Provide an interesting program agenda for the year and inform Chapter members of those programs and dates as soon as possible.

- Officers and others carefully selected to contact each member that does not attend functions at all to find out their reasons and in turn would be checking on the status of those members.
- Set up electronic delivery of Dinner Program Meeting information to make reservations and do the same for the special events that are to be held.
- Work on Fund Raising projects ideas to raise money for needed issues.

This past year we have been able to provide a variety of different types of programs for the membership. At the present time approximately ten to fourteen members meet on

Saturday a.m. for an informal breakfast gathering. We had one planned Breakfast Social inviting all of the membership to come. We held our first one in January and had sixteen attend. We did not think that was bad for the first time. In the future we plan on expanding on this idea as there are many who cannot or prefer not to drive at night.

Our Chapter helped to support a local veteran (who lost both legs in Iraq) in the purchase of van that will accommodate a wheelchair. We gave him \$637 toward his need.

2008 Calendar Dates for Board meetings and Dinner Program Meetings.

January 16 ~ Board meeting

January 23 ~ Breakfast Social at Dwayne's Country Cafe.

February 8 ~ Dinner Program Meeting with Admiral Ryan and Texas Council of Chapters.

March 12 ~ Board Meeting

April 11 ~ Dinner Program Meeting with U.S. Representative Louie Gohmert as guest speaker.

May 14 ~ Board Meeting

June 13 ~ Dinner Program Meeting with Special Affairs Officer presentation.

July 9 ~ Board Meeting

August 8 ~ Dinner Program Meeting with Chapter Game night.

September 10 ~ Board Meeting

October 10 ~ Dinner Meeting ~ TBA

November 12 ~ Board Meeting

December 14 ~ Christmas Dinner Program ~ TBA

Board of Officers: Jim Snow LTC USA Retired ~ President
2008 Terry Howlett Lt.Col.USAF Retired ~ First Vice President
John Davis Lt.Col. USMC Retired ~ Second Vice President
Addie Gustafeson Mrs. ~ Treasurer
Shirley Lindsay LT NC USN Former ~ Secretary
Jack Nolan Lt.Col. USMC Retired ~ Personal Affairs Officer
John Hall CAPT USN Retired ~ Past President
Sam Patricaccia MAJ USA Retired ~ Web Master

Shirley Lindsay
Secretary Rose Capital Chapter

February 2008 Update
Heart of Texas Chapter MOAA TX07

1. The chapter currently has 67 members as of 1 February and is continuing to update 2008 memberships. The chapter had as many as 100 members two years ago and is in process of recruiting new members and reenrolling those in the local area. One issue is age as the WWII generation passes on and there not a new military retiree or active duty inputs into Waco area.
2. Dinner meetings are held every 3rd Thursday at the Ridgewood Country Club with either entertainment or a guest speaker and about 40-50 members, spouses and guests except for April, when the chapter has its annual charity scholarship golf scramble fund raiser. This is the primary fund raiser for the program, besides dues and Give Me 10! Initiative. The golf scramble has been successful with member support and local corporate sponsors. Funds are raised thru golfer fees, hole sponsors, silent auction, and raffle.

3. Our scholarship and award program involves spring award to outstanding sophomore cadet at Baylor AFROTC, spring awards to 2 or three outstanding performers from summer training camps by Baylor AFROTC cadets, savings bonds to top JROTC cadet at each of five local high schools, cash award to several JROTC cadets to assist with expenses for summer leadership camp. We are also starting a local educational scholarship award to dependent child in undergraduate school of military parent, with priority if parent was lost while on active duty. The chapter also donates funds to help with expenses for the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and the Veteran's Day Parade, as well as participate in these and other ceremonies as Flag Retirement Ceremonies, held two times a year that are organized by the McLennan County Veteran's Association.
4. Challenges include keeping the officer positions filled since most of the members are older and have already rotated thru at least once if not more times. Filling Director positions is not same problem as keeping the positions filled, currently we are short the 1st VP position and Treasurer is being filled for the interim by the Past President. The Past President had held the position for two years due to lack of 1st VP volunteer and this is normally a one year position in the chapter.