

TCC Chapter Reports, 3rd Qtr 2008

AUSTIN CHAPTER OF MOAA THIRD QUARTER REPORT

The Austin Chapter will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in January 2009. An endless line of leaders has created an active chapter of about three hundred members. Some of the notable efforts in recent months have been participation in the Patriot Fund, creation of a Personal Affairs Committee, and a proactive chaplaincy program as well as ongoing efforts with area ROTC programs and educational and entertaining speakers.

One of the significant challenges remaining is that of incorporating the national MOAA members in the area in local chapter activities. About three quarters of the national members in our area are seventy or older and reflect non-involvement of members of the military and the recently retired. A change in national policy that would automatically align national members with the local chapter where they live would increase chapter membership and possibly participation in chapter activities although the advancing age of the core membership would be more strongly felt in emails, telephone calls and letters to people of power in politics.

Our Personal Affairs Committee has prepared a personal affairs kit available through our chaplain and service representatives to members experiencing significant individual distress. Presentations about the program have been made at chapter meetings, posted on the website and through integration into the monthly newsletter. Colonel Leon Holland, US Army retired, led the effort. Attached is Personal Affairs Committee information.

Our chapter is collecting funds for the Patriot Project and we have \$4674.00 to donate to the program of providing iBOTs to severely maimed warriors enabling them to live with greater mobility.

LtCol Ernie Dean is a compassionate chaplain who routinely and effectively contacts members in distress and either provides or coordinates counsel and assistance. As part of the Personal Affairs Committee and in liaison with service representatives and other officers of the chapter he keeps the chapter informed of the sick and distressed as appropriate.

In January we will to have a birthday party! In honor of our fiftieth year of activity we are working towards a suitable observance.

Austin Chapter recognized and celebrated the U.S. Army's birthday in June with a speaker bringing us up to date on Army programs, weapons systems and personnel matters. In September we will celebrate the U.S. Air Force's birthday in a similar

fashion. In October and November we will honor the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps respectively.

Working effectively together we have done much and will continue being an effective source of information, assistance and camaraderie for the MOAA members and their guests in the Austin area.

Merlen Howe
President, Austin Chapter of MOAA

AUSTIN MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (AMOOA)

PERSONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To inform AMOOA members of the importance of Personal Affairs planning.

KEY: Advanced planning and preparation

Advanced planning and preparation are a way of demonstrating your concern and care for your family when you are no longer able. It is a way to exercise control over how you and your family will deal with a part of life that must be faced.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote planning awareness
2. Provide checklist, materials, and contact information
3. Provide assistance and spiritual support to surviving spouse and family, when requested
4. Follow-up with surviving spouse and/or family
5. Encourage continued AMOOA participation

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS:

1. Gather documents
2. Talk about "what if"
3. Prepare Letter of Instruction and/or complete Survivor Assistance Checklist

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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TCC REPORT

MEDICAL REPORT

Tricare: Bids are in to the companies. The regions will remain the same. They hope to make the award prior to the election.

Autism: Discussed this at the last mtg. There is an amendment to the Natl. Defense Authorization Act to raise the limit from 2500 to 5000/month

The new ECHO program attached to the above is the Senate amendment to expand the fee to all needy children, i.e., those with CP and other debilitating conditions.

On 17 Sept '08 USNI and MOAA are sponsoring a one-day seminar on "Keeping Faith with Wounded Warriors and their families. Speakers will be Senator Carl Levin; The Honorable Gordon England, Deputy Sec. of Defense; The Honorable James Peake, Sec. of Veteran Affairs. There will also be several panel discussions.

I have a copy of the Rand report on PTSD and TBI if anyone is interested. Our presenter was Ms. Terri Tanielian who will be on one of the panels at the above mtg.

The VA and DOD still haven't gotten their act together on a single discharge and disability rating. The ROA report of 15 July discussed the new Physical Disability Board of Review (PDRB) in great length. These are two different things. One is the actual discharge physical while the PDRB is the review board.

OTHER MOAA TOPICS

GI Bill: full tuition to any public school and participating private schools. There would be allowance for housing and books.

The transfer to a family member is still uncertain.

Ginny Alloway
TCC Auxiliary Quarterly Report
August 23, 2008

TCC Auxiliary Report

There are several things to report concerning the Auxiliary. The first is that the MOAA Auxiliary Committee has a new MOAA advisor, Col. Phil Odom. He replaced Col. Lee Lange in November 2007. In June, he sent out e-mails apologizing for lack of communications from the Auxiliary Committee. We hope there will be more forthcoming. Should you have anything for me to say to him, let me know.

August 3, I received an e-mail informing me that the Committee has established six regions throughout the U. S. The six Committee members will be responsible for one region. Texas is grouped with NE, MO, AR, and MS. These six should receive correspondence from Paula Muth, Committee member. I assume this is the work of Col. Odom.

Please read the cover of the August Military Officer. There are testimonials from several survivors. This issue includes a survey for auxiliary members to fill out, and mail in to enter a contest for a cruise. Read carefully---there are 2 ways to win.

For widows receiving DIC----see page 39 of the August issue. Those stalwart ladies made it through the first leg of their lawsuit. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!! The DOD lawyers did not reply to the judge's order to give reason why he should not side with the women. SO----June 12 he directed DOD to restore the widows' SBP annuities. BUT---DOD lawyers will surely appeal. I so dislike the condescending attitude of some people, such as the ones who wrote the article. This is the second time that MOAA has said, "But anything can happen in the appeals process, so widows aren't out of the woods yet". One brief sentence commended their tenacity. Well, why bother??????

Alice Karr,
TCC Auxiliary Liaison

Military Officers Association of America
Wichita Falls Chapter
Texas Council of Chapters Meeting
Aug 16, 2008
Report

As we stated in our last quarterly report, our objective this year is to focus on critical priorities for the Chapter to enhance our operations. We believe that these issues are vital for the continued success and growth of our Chapter.

- **Leadership & Organizational Development**

We have completely revamped our bylaws. We anticipate their approval August 11 at our next regular meeting.

We continue in our efforts to assure that our standing committees are meeting at least monthly. Each committee is asked to submit a written report which is included as part of the consent agenda at our regular chapter meetings.

- **Identity/Visibility/Credibility**

Our book scholarship program has been met with great success. We plan to increase the amounts awarded as soon as practicable.

We continue to participate in the graduation ceremonies of pilots participating in the Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training Program at Sheppard AFB. The chapter president presents an Officership Award to an outstanding graduate of each class. This is a major award presentation and is given top billing at the graduations.

We continue to work on our visibility and credibility in the military and civilian communities.

- **Financial Stability**

The chapter is applying for 501C (19) status as a War Veterans organization. Currently our membership consists of approximately 98% war veterans. This will enhance donations as all donations are tax deductible once we've secured this status from the IRS. Donations for both operating funds and for book scholarships have increased dramatically. The chapter is considered to be financially solvent.

- **Member Recruitment and Retention**

Our chapter participates in the "Give Me Ten" program sponsored by MOAA. To date we have recruited 6 new members. We are working to gain the membership of the new Flying Training Wing Commander.

- **Partnerships**

Our efforts have been to focus on our partnership with Sheppard AFB. We continue to work on participating in more community activities in the future. We

have established an excellent rapport with the VFW Commander and several of our members are active in civic clubs within Wichita Falls and surrounding communities.

Focus on these critical areas assures that the efforts of our Chapter leadership is progressive and meaningful. Most importantly we are working to complement the efforts of MOAA national.

We are very optimistic with regard to our mission and with regard to the contributions of our local chapter to the Wichita Falls-Sheppard AFB communities.

Respectfully submitted:

Lawrence D. Petrash
LTC, USA (Ret)
Chapter President

El Paso President's Chapter Q2 & 3 Report to TCC at the Greater Lubbock Chapter, August
22 & 23, 2008

<http://elpasomoaa.org/>

Chapter accomplishments since last report dated February 8 & 9 2008 and Q1 at the
Rose Capitol Chapter Meeting:

elpasomoaa.org has recruited approximately 118 Give Me Ten members for 2008.

Received notification that the "Colonel Joseph C. Rodriguez, Medal of Honor,
Memorial Scholarship of the El Paso Chapter," is established in perpetuity as a
Designated Scholarship under MOAA national's 501(c)(3) Scholarship Fund.

Billed and Booked \$8,200 in non-dues income for 2008 through newsletter
advertising revenues.

7x Board Meetings...

3x General Membership Meetings...1x special joint membership meeting... joint
MOAA, NAUS, and SMW "Day at the Races" at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino.

Represent MOAA national at the Bataan Memorial Death March Exercise 3/30/.2008 at White Sands Missile Range...

Sponsored one Heavy Team from 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, comprised of three officers and two enlisted in the Bataan Memorial Death 26.2 mile March competition.

Sponsored, along with others, 978th MP Company's Organization Day at Western Playland Park for their families immediately prior to their 3d Combat Deployment.

Sponsored a table of 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Soldiers at their Formal Ball.

Participated in JROTC Annual Massing of the Colors .

Participated in JROTC Awards Ceremonies.

Recruited new Officers and Board members for 2009...more Active Duty and recently Retired.

Received 2007 Special Communications Award specially created by MOAA national to recognize elpasomoaa.org's efforts in fostering communications with its members.

Began thought process to restructure membership.

Continued out-reach to Active Duty by having the option of extending Board Committee positions to O-6 Commanders and their Command Sergeants Majors if they will join us if asked.

Increased Contributions budget line to \$250 for each of 12 Brigade Combat Teams expected to eventually be on Fort Bliss.

Supported and attended 50th Brigade Combat Team's (ARNG – NJ) July 4 Celebration at the Mobilization and Deployment Brigade's area at Macgregor Range...recruited their command section, CO, DCO, and XO...and, the Nj – TAG at Forward Operating Base Westbrook in the training area while he was inspecting the 50th .

Planned activities going forward for the remainder of Q3 & 4:

Conduct a No-Host joint MOAA, NAUS, MOWW, and SMW pre RAD joint meeting on 9/26 featuring CAPT Bud Schneeweis, MOAA national, as speaker.

Elect 2009 Officers and Board at 9/26 meeting...will publish the October newsletter early to accommodate early meeting for October to be held 9/26...slate for 2009 will be published in that letter.

Participate in RAD at Biggs Airfield, Fort Bliss, Texas, on 9/27.

Stay current on planned activities by viewing the most recent newsletter posted on the chapter's website: <http://elpasomoaa.org>.

Military Officers Association of America
East Texas Chapter
Texas Council of Chapters Meeting
Aug 23, 2008
Report

1. Successes:

- Conducted Golf Tournament to support local Veterans Museum. Donation \$5,000.
- Participated in local university ROTC Awards Program. Presented ROTC Cadet Scholarship of \$500 savings bond.
- Increased contact with local Army Reserve unit and Local National Guard unit.
- Assisted local community in having Fourth of July parade. Many of our members rode a decorated float in the parade.
- Attended university ROTC Commissioning Ceremony for seven cadets. Recruited two new members from the ROTC cadre and provided applications for membership to the seven new lieutenants.
- Many of our members participate in Habitat for Humanity and the current project is almost complete.

2. Challenges:

- Membership as always. We recently lost another member from the World War II era.
- Gaining membership from ROTC cadre and local National Guard unit.
- Allocation of necessary time to work the issues.

3. Future Initiatives:

- Increase visits to ROTC cadre and National Guard Units.

- Increase visits to local veterans museum to recruit members.
- Assemble volunteers to work zip code call list.
- Next golf tournament for charity has been scheduled.

COL John A. McManners, USA (Ret), President

North DFW Military Officers Association, TX 31

3rd Quarter Report to TCC, MOAA

18 August 2008

Leadership:

The 2008 Board had one change this quarter, as Rich Crossley took over the JROTC/ROTC Scholarship and Awards Program from Tom Lytle. Tom, who served as the chair for several years, was appropriately honored/roasted at our June general membership meeting. We continue to encourage more members and spouses to become involved in the chapter programs. In June, 3 members and spouses volunteered to help with the Scholarship Program, and one member volunteered to help with Legislative Affairs. We are already discussing candidates for the 2009 board.

Membership:

Current membership is 108, 2 less than on 1 Jan 08. Recruiting has been less successful than in 2007. We look forward to increasing our membership with MOAA's program in offering free chapter memberships to national members who are not currently chapter members. Efforts to recruit new members who live in an active adult community have been minimally successful. We will attempt to have a recruitment table at their annual Veterans Day program. We have had 3 members convert their annual membership to Life Membership.

Chapter Successes:

We won the 5-Star Level of Excellence Award for 2007. We've earned this Excellent Chapter rating for 5 of the 7 years we've been in existence, including the past 4 consecutive years.

Our chapter continues to collect new children's books for the United Through Reading Program at the DFW airport USO.

We entered 3 joint ventures with other military organizations. We joined the Greater Dallas Chapter in greeting troops arriving at the DFW Airport, as they arrive for their R&R. We do this once a month. We'd like much more participation, but we've at least started this. Secondly, we joined efforts with the American Legion in Little Elm to collect items to send to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Third, we supported one of our JROTC cadets with his Eagle Scout Project. We emailed dates and locations of the collection and a list of items the scout was collecting for the Fisher House in San Antonio. Several members participated in donating to this worthy cause. The Greater Dallas Chapter was also part of the project, by funding the printing costs for flyers distributed at the local grocery stores.

Challenges:

Primary areas of concern are: Affordable dinners at local meeting places, motivating more members to participate in chapter activities, and encouraging members to join the Board of Directors. The same core members attend our general membership dinners/meetings and current Board Members have served for several years.

Though 2007 was a successful year, 2008 is already showing recruitment of new members will continue to present a challenge. Contacting MOAA members who are not chapter members has not resulted in a surge of new members. MOAA's plan to offer free chapter memberships to national members is encouraging. Of course, our challenge also remains to retain these members after the first year of membership.

Future Initiatives:

1. Increase the monthly participation by our members in the joint effort with the Greater Dallas Chapter in greeting returning troops at the DFW airport.
2. Organize and conduct an aggressive campaign at the Robson Ranch complex to attract new members. Over 20 packages were already sent to national MOAA members, inviting them into chapter membership. We have had visitors at our general membership meetings, but only one joined.
3. Obtain another 5-Star Level of Excellence Award for 2008.
4. Investigate additional fund-raising opportunities for our Senior ROTC and Junior ROTC cadet programs to allow a larger scholarship award in 2009. Our new chair is an active JROTC instructor, and plans to help with recruiting all the instructors in the school we support to become chapter members.

Richard H. Johnston
President
North DFW Military Officers Association

Chapter Report

August 21, 2008

Highland Lakes Chapter – MOAA

1. Changed meeting schedule to 4 times per year to reduce conflicts with other organizations in the area.
2. Scholarships: Identified three wives of Fort Hood soldiers either deployed or about to be who are enrolled in a highly accelerated nursing class at Texas Tech. Providing \$500 dollars to each one to offset their huge enrollment fees. To be presented at the September meeting.
3. Attendance at last meeting was up (April). Think it was a result of the subject: Survivor benefits and the MOAA Checklist
Still trying!!!

Dale Fixsen
Chapter President

Rose Capital Chapter

August 18, 2008

Rose Capital Chapter Third Quarter Report – Texas Council of Chapters

Membership : Present 117 members. Number to join since last report. – 4

Members lost since last report - 2 – (1 due to poor health –

1 due to death).

Goals: As stated in May 10,2008 report to increase our membership in the Chapter.

We continue to pursue members through the “Give Me Ten Recruitment Campaign”

- **Improve our visibility in the East Texas community by extending the newspaper coverage to include notices in the small community newspapers surrounding the city of Tyler in addition to the Tyler paper.**
- **Continue to extend invitations to local dignitaries to our events. Continue our involvement in the activities of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce**
thereby giving our Chapter recognition as being a part of the local business community and as such an asset.
- **Continue to sponsor the “Welcome Home Soldier Project”. In doing so make the local community part of the support of United States Armed Forces effort and in turn show our local heros that their sacrifices are appreciated.**

Goals within the Rose Capital Chapter :

- **Continue with the “Give Me Ten “ recruitment campaign.**
- **Continue to improve the communication between members of the Chapter by the officers communicating with the membership about plans and future plans set forth.**
- **Continue with more involvement of the membership in the operation of the Chapter.**
- **Continue with increase of the membership attendance at Chapter activities.**
- **Complete redesign of the Chapter Newsletter and recruit sponsors to purchase advertisement space to defray the cost of printing.**
- **Complete design of the Rose Capital Chapter web page and go online with it.**
- **Work with other military organizations in the area to form a Coalition of all to pursue a common goal.**

What we have done since our last report to fulfill the goals of and within the Chapter.

1. **Membership – Designed and had printed a new “membership card” the same size as the Give Me Ten cards. Prepared a packet that contains the Rose Capital Chapter Membership card; the MOAA green card (two year membership- one free) and the MOAA yellow card (one year free membership for active duty and reserve officers). Also included addressed envelope to the chapter, MOAA chapter brochure and Life membership brochure. These packets we have placed at the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and the Director of Veteran Services office. We plan on adding them to the local Newcomers Club visitors’ packets to be given to those citizens that they visit that have a military affiliation.**

2. **Communication: The Chapter Secretary has a list of all of the members that are online and provides notification of all information that is pertinent to the chapter. Items such as the arrival dates , times and place of our “Welcome Home Soldier” that is returning from their overseas assignment. We also notify all of those online of the Interment Ceremonies that the Patriot Guard attends. Provides information about a member that is ill or in the hospital with information being provided by the family member. Provide the membership with all of the dates and times of upcoming events of the Chapter in a timely manner and also of the activities of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce.**

3. **Have recruited members to be come involved by asking them to participate in the calling of MOAA members from the list provided by MOAA of those that do not belong to a chapter. At the present we have four members that are calling from that list. Also recruited a member to initiate all of the information to that potential member that is interested in joining the chapter. We have recruited a member to be our Personal Affairs Officer as that spot had not been filled or any work done in that area for some time. We hope to have a workshop come about through that officer.**

4. **Military organizations coalition: Visited with the Veteran Services Officers office about forming this coalition. We will pursue this as soon as possible.**

5. **Commuinty involvement : The president , secretary and other members of the chapter have been attending the Chamber of Commerce activities such as : After Hours Networking ; Chamber Breakfasts ; Mayor’s Luncheon and Chamber**

of Commerce's Luncheons. The Tyler Telegraph sponsors a Reception that includes information about how to promote your organization. They publish a newspaper each fall that includes a photograph of the President and a write-up about your organization. We attend this reception each year. We have asked the new Mayor to be our guest speaker at our dinner program in February and she has accepted.

6. **Breakfast Social** : We are continuing to hold this event on the opposite month of our Dinnner Program Meeting. We have had a varied response, in that we continue to have different members to come each month. We feel that it is worth the little expense that is involved as it promotes involvement in the chapter. We continue to have our informal Saturday a. m. breakfast gathering at a local restaurant usually having from ten to fourteen members attend.

7. **Welcome Home Soldier Project** : We have made the Leader of the Welcome Home Soldier Project an Honorary member of our chapter. In doing so we are opening doors for her as it gives her more access to promoting the Project and in doing so she is notified about those that are returning. That is one of the problems that she has had. The local ABC - TV station is covering each return and now notify her if they find out about a returnee. We continue to provide her with printing of her colored flyers to place in public places to help get the word out that the Project is in existence. We have set up a good line of communication with her and this has made us part of her group of volunteers who number over 250.

8. **Legislative Issues** : At the present time we do not have anyone specific that is covering our Legislative Issues. The secretary includes in her newsletter information that is provided by David Briggs and any issues that are pertinent from MOAA. We have had our local U.S. Representative speak at one of our meetings and through that many of us have gotten communication set up from his office. We continue in the newsletter to encourage members to complete the forms or e-mails that are provided by MOAA. Secretary encourages new members to be sure and get signed up for the MOAA Newsletter online.

2008 Calendar Dates for the year:

September 10, 2008 - Board Meeting
September 11, 2008 - Breakfast Social
September 16, 2008 - Ladies Luncheon

**October 10, 2008 – Dinner Program Meeting – Admiral Lair guest speaker
- Election of Officers - 2009**
November 13, 2008 – Board Meeting
November - Breakfast Social – Date TBA
December 14, 2008 – Dinner Program Meeting – TBA

Board of Officers:

Jim Snow LTC USA Retired – President
Terry Howlett Lt. Col. USAF Retired -1st Vice President
John Davis Lt. Col. USMC Retired – 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Addie Gustafeson Treasurer
Shirley Lindsay Lt NC USN Former – Secretary
John Hall Capt USN Retired – former chapter president

Beverly Knaus USA Former – Personal Affairs Officer
Leo Glover LTC USA Retired – Membership Chairman
Sam Patricaccia Major USA Retired – Web Master

Shirley Lindsay , Secretary Rose Capital Chapter TX -25

Greater Dallas Chapter Report for TCC Meeting, Aug. 23, 2008

The MOAA-Greater Dallas Chapter began the current year with a total of 385 members (including auxiliary members). To date we have recruited 18 new members and member renewals are going well.

We are currently in the process of looking for volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee for next year and that program is not going as well as we would like. Hopefully, we will be able to fill these key Chapter positions.

Our Chapter's legislative efforts are going very well. As part of its "grass root" support of MOAA's Washington legislative goal, on 4 Aug 2008 representatives from the Greater Dallas Chapter met with the Honorable Sam Johnson (3rd TX), completing visits with the local offices of the eight Dallas area

Congressional Representatives in whose districts the Chapter has significant numbers of members. In support of such goals Chapter representatives not only spoke with such Representatives local office staffers, but also spoke by conference call to almost all of the Washington legislative aides of the Representatives. Chapter representatives also visited the Dallas office of Senator Cornyn, and spoke by conference call with the Washington legislative aides of both Texas Senators.

In addition, in support of MOAA's legislative e-mail efforts, the Chapter has regularly sent its members e-mail legislative action alerts with links to MOAA's e-mails to Congress, urging the Chapters members to send MOAA e-mails to Congress. Also, the Chapter, also at most of its bimonthly meetings, supplies its members with prepared postcards with MOAA suggested text for signature and mailing by the Chapter to Congress. These postcards help fill the gap of members who do not have e-mail.

We still have our "Meet and Greet" the troops returning to DFW airport from the Middle East program going strong. The meeting is conducted every fourth Tuesday of the month and is well supported.

Finally, we have changed some of our Chapter lunch meetings to dinner meetings.

Charles E. Gibbs
Col. USAF (Ret)
Chapter Representative

3rd Quarter Report for TX #7 Heart of Texas Chapter MOAA, Waco

The chapter continues at 79 dues paying members and is continuing to work to recruit new members and retain current members. We will be working to use the National MOAA information lists to try contact personnel in our local area. Recruitment is both an opportunity and continuing challenge to keep the chapter energized. We continue to have monthly dinner meetings every third Thursday at the local country club and alternate with guest speaker or local entertainment.

The chapter awarded its spring scholarships to four college students. One \$1,500 and three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded. Proceeds were collected mainly through our annual golf scramble fundraiser held each April. We will be getting ready to work with our local ROTC unit at Baylor University for the fall awards to the top performers from the summer training camp.

We continue to have a challenge in getting volunteers to man our officer positions. Most members have already served in a position once or twice and we continue to solicit for volunteers as we start nomination process for 2009 with open 1st VP position for the last year. We have no real problems in getting directors to assist with oversight and support with the dinner meetings and golf scramble, but seems the year commitment which usually turns into longer term seems to be a deterrent. We will continue and sort through as managed in the past.