

TCC Chapter, Legislative & Auxiliary Reports

4th Qtr 2008

Date 11/10/08

Chapter: Alamo

Chapter #: TX 16

Number of Members: 1050

Significant Highlights

Successes:

Adjudged by MOAA to be a Five Star chapter

Adjudged by MOAA to win First Place in the print newsletter category.

For the first time in several years the Alamo Chapter has exceeded 1,000 members. This is broken down as follows: Active Duty: 196, Retired: 590, Auxiliary: 264, (Total 1050)

This membership recruiting success is attributed in a large part to a very active leader in our Membership Department, Randy Hoff. He has worked Ft Sam real hard with his team and we have also worked the Retiree Days at Lackland AFB and Randolph AFB this year. We are pleased to receive formal recognition from MOAA for our successes in the membership area, especially for the recent article in the Affiliate.

Challenges:

We believe the program offerings are excellent but stay disappointed in getting people to attend the functions.

We also continue to be challenged by keeping a full cadre of leaders to run the many parts that make the chapter run. Leadership continues to do quite well but there is always turnover and always room for more people.

We stay challenged with getting feedback from our membership. There is great talent and great Americans who belong to our chapter and we continually strive to get input from same. Our editor of the newsletter has included a feature entitled "Letters to the Editor" and that is starting to draw some feedback of which we are very appreciative.

Future Initiatives:

To have a fruitful planning session for Year 2009. We will going back to the basics regarding membership programs, personal affairs and legislative advocacy. Our strategic plan will be updated accordingly.

Another future initiative is working more closely with the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Antonio. We are hopeful we can put together a program that will help those that are severely injured, especially from PTSD or TBI.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

We have had a meeting with Congressman Gonzales and a staff member from Senator Cornyn.

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:

Legislative news is included in our monthly newsletter The Lariat as well as on our website.
www.alamomooa.org.

What postcards and letters are you sending:

Program has been launched whereby letters are printed and distributed at the monthly luncheons and sent to the State and congressional representatives. Thanks to TCC for getting the chapter to involve itself in this endeavor

Report submitted by:

LtCol Ed Marvin, President Alamo Chapter

AUSTIN CHAPTER

The Austin Chapter is developing a significant and festive celebration to commemorate our fiftieth anniversary in January 2009. We hope the President of MOAA will be our speaker. An endless line of leaders has created an active chapter of three hundred twenty plus members. Some of the notable efforts in recent months have been

contributing \$5174 the Patriot Fund towards an iBOT, presentations of Personal Affairs materials, and a proactive effort to increase active membership. Ongoing efforts include ROTC programs and educational and entertaining speakers.

Austin Chapter recognized and celebrated the U.S .Air Force's birthday in Sep and the U.S. Navy's birthday in October. The U.S. Marine Corps birthday will be celebrated on November 17th at our regular meeting. Speakers provided up to date information on programs, weapons systems and personnel matters.

We have placed the preamble within our regular program for each dinner meeting to stimulate interest and action on the part of those attending to support MOAA's legislative efforts within the state and nationally.

Working effectively we have sought ways of 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

Central Texas Chapter #22

The Central Texas Chapter of MOAA met in the months of August and September. We meet on the third Friday and each month (except December).

The July meeting was cancelled by the President due to the Change of Command of the III Corps and Fort Hood Commander.

The August meeting was presented by National Congressman John Carter. Representative Carter spoke about his recent visit to Iraq. He presented critical information "like it is" ... highlighting the successes of the US Forces in Iraq. He also highlighted some negatives which were discussed in detail. His discussion of the role of the media was most interesting. The "first hand" information was very useful for retirees of the Central Texas area.

The September meeting commenced with an explanation of the election process for new officers for the calendar year 2009. A tentative slate was presented to the membership. The membership was informed the November meeting would be the Annual Meeting and the election of officers would take place; installation of officers would be in January 2009. NOTE: The chapter does not meet in December. The monthly presentation was delivered by Ms. Beth Waller, the III Corps and Fort Hood Retirement Services Officer. The Corps Commander has responsibility for supporting retirees in 176 counties of Texas. Ms. Waller's office supports about 135,000 retirees, to include numerous retirees from other services. Ms. Waller provided a handout and explained many the functions of her office and how her office could assist retirees.

Significant activities/announcements: reports the Scholarship (Texas A&M cadet had met the requirements for the scholarship) , Personal Affairs (attendance to the TCC quarterly meeting) and Area Veterans Advisory Council representatives (forthcoming Veteran's Day activities and planned political candidate forums in the area).

Respectively submitted,

Jos Portmann
Secretary

East Texas Chapter #4

Successes:

--Conducted golf tournament to benefit local veterans' museum. Donation 2500.00.

--Participated with local university in several ROTC programs.

--Gained two new members from ROTC cadre. More to come.

--Many members work with Habitat for Humanity. 13th house is being finished.

Challenges:

--Membership

--Gain more members from ROTC and local National Guard unit.

Future Initiatives:

--Concentrate on ROTC and NG contacts.

--Continue to work current MOAA programs for membership. Have gained only one in "card mail back" program.

Submitted by: John McManners

Chapter: Greater Dallas Chapter – MOAA-GDC

Chapter #: TX 03

Number of Members: Members - 279

Auxiliary - 106

Successes:

Our Chapter continues to enjoy a very active 2009 Membership Renewal Campaign. In addition, MOAA-GDC has recruited 19 new members – the best recruiting year ever. Also mailed 18 applications to North Texas MOAA National members that MOAA National says expressed an interest in our Chapter.

Our Chapter supports a program to assist Chapter members in renewing their military ID cards. There are different locations that this can be done and is very helpful to widows and those who are impaired.

MOAA-GDC is for the first time participating in the 2008 Dallas Veterans Day Parade. We will have an antique fire truck carrying our banner and also a Hummer to carry some of our members.

This year, on September 25, for the first time we had a Chapter Golf Outing at Stevens Park in Dallas. There were four teams participating followed by a lunch. It was a fun day for all.

On December 18th, we will have our Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner Dance. We plan to have the election and installation of the 2009 Chapter Officers.

Challenges:

One of our main challenges to recruit younger members and persuade them to fill the Chapter Officer positions.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional representatives we are covering:

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Rep. Pete Sessions

Rep. Sam Johnson

Sen. John Cornyn

Rep. Kenny Marchant

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:

We send e-mail alerts as necessary.

What postcards and letters are you sending:

During our Chapter dinner meetings postcards are signed and then mailed to various Congressional Representatives.

Report submitted by:

Col. Charles Gibbs USAF (Ret)

Chapter Representative

Greater Lubbock.

We received 5 new members from the MOAA magazine mail out. On November 1st, we mailed 140 invitations to the MOAA national members in our area and offered them free 2009 memberships in our chapter , and received 3 prospects so far.

Our nominating committee has selected new officers and directors. We gave out the new names and duties and we will vote on them and install them during our December meeting.

We moved our November meeting date and location to the Silent Wings Museum and celebrated Veterans Day with them. Food , music, and speakers were good.

Edgar Murphy
MG Ret. AUS
President
Greater Lubbock Chapter

Chapter: Heart of Texas, Waco, Texas

Chapter #: 7

Number of Members: As of November 10, we have 87 members so we are roughly the same number for the year. We are in progress of talking to four prospects that from member's input and we received three names from National MOAA with their October chapter membership drive.

SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS

Successes: We continue with our annual scholarship award program. We awarded as projected three awards to Baylor AFROTC cadets for being top performers at their summer training flights. The awards were two \$750 and one \$500. We participated in the local Veteran's Day parade on 11-11-08 in downtown Waco. We had chapter members participate in couple of local public events involving dedication of a Military of the Purple Heart monument at the Waco VA Hospital, which included attendees as U.S. Representative Chet Edwards, State Representative Charles Anderson, Commander from Fort Hood, and Temple and Waco VA Directors. There was an annual Flag Retirement by Burning Ceremony at Carleen Bright

Arboretum with participation by our members. We continue to have monthly dinner meetings at the Ridgewood Country Club and our Board has approved the 2009 schedule, which has been published in the recent November newsletter.

Challenges: We have challenges in getting enough new members so that we can get new faces in the officer and director ranks. Our Board agreed to serve another year due to difficulty in getting new participants in officer area, especially for President. The President extended for a year, since we never had a 1st VP, and 2nd VP moved up, but we are still working to get position filled. We do have directors volunteer to stay but again still same hard-working faces. We also have keep pushing sources to recruit more local members. Fund-raising at our annual golf tournament, both on sponsors and participants, is expected to be more work given business situation.

Future Initiatives: We are continuing to advise our members to provide the Board any leads on possible new members. We are soliciting current members to continue their membership as we start collecting 2009 dues. We will be adding awards to our scholarship program since Baylor University is adding an Army ROTC unit. We continue to have an award program that involves our five JROTC units in our area. We continue to solicit ideas from our members for speakers and entertainment for the monthly dinners so we can keep the participation level up.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering: U.S. rep is Chet Edwards. State rep is Charles "Doc" Anderson and state senator is Kip Averitt.

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: They are being received and information is being e-mailed to our members when available for TCC or from National MOAA.

What postcards and letters are you sending: We send newsletters out to members by both e-mail and U.S. mail, based on their preference. We send out e-mail and postcards as reminders on monthly dinners. We have not prepared any correspondence per se for chapter members to use on the alerts. We refer to the National MOAA web site and our newsletters has the contact information for our U.S. congressman and senators.

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

Subject: Quarterly Report to Texas Council of Chapters

10 November, 2008

To: Maj. James Cunningham, USAF (Ret)

Our most recent formal meeting was held in September at Webb Hill Country Club in Wolfe City. Our guest speaker was Rhenda White-Brunner who currently the head of the USO at Dallas-Fort Worth airport.

She mainly spoke of the successes of their program at DFW. Some of us have had the opportunity to visit their facilities in recent months and it's evident why they have a very successful program.

Nearly every morning a flight lands at DFW loaded with troops fresh from the battle field. To me it was a real thrill the see the smile on their faces when they see a hundred or more civilians welcoming them home.

Our speaker for our upcoming November meeting will be CWO II Harry Thompson who was a POW during WW II. Four years ago on his 90th birthday he made a parachute jump and is currently planning another jump this coming May when he turns 95.

A few of us assisted at Texas A&M Commerce for their 17th annual Veterans Vigil to remember those men and women who have died or missing in action. On 6 November we had a flame lighting ceremony and then for 48 hours had veterans standing guard.

At 1300 on Saturday we had another parade to the football stadium where we had a 21 gun salute, the University band plying the national anthem, taps and another ceremony to extinguish the flame until next year.

At our upcoming meeting we will install our new slate of officers. They are: Lt/Col Jerry Mainord, VP CWO 5 Joe Webber, Secretary Capt. Larry Silvy, Treasurer Col. Beryl Ashberry and directors: Maj. Rhonda Rogers, Col. Dianna Fleek, Col. Ron Rabb and Col. Lee Green.

These officers will be sworn in by B/G Tim Bodi.

12 Nov 2008

Chapter: North DFW

Chapter #: TX-31

Members: 115

Successes:

- 7 new members recruited through MOAA national postcard campaign
- 14 new members in 2008
- Chapter members active in support of DFW USO, Skyball Fundraiser, Meet & Greet Program @ DFW
- Active participation in several local Veteran's Day ceremonies
- ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Program active and growing each year

Challenges:

- Recruiting success at Robson Ranch is marginal due to restrictions on outside organizations

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

- Congressman Michael Burgess
- No meetings in past 3 months due to elections

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:

- Forwarded to 90% of our chapter on as-needed basis (all those with E-mail)

Report submitted by: Bob Little

1st V-P, North DFW MOA

Chapter: Rio Grande Chapter

Chapter #: 27

Number of paid members is 28

Significant Highlights

We are still active. But members are getting older and sicker.

The members of the board are calling each one on the list sent to us via e-mail. Of these some have died some have moved. Of those we have reached 4 so far have attended our meetings. We are also advertising on community news on TV and radio.

We have decided as of this past meeting to move to a Mid-Valley location with the hope of reaching the greater majority of those on our list and are making the meeting meet 30 minutes later to accommodate those who are working which includes several doctors..

Suceses : see above

Challenges: getting more involved and more members.

Legislative efforts

WE cover MANY Districts and it is hard to say how many as I don't know of those who do not attend we cover the whole south Texas from Corpus to Rio Grande City To Brownsville and then some, by the list .

E-mail is how we try to correspond to all with whom we have e-mail addresses.

We are sending postcards of meeting that are held in the summer, in the winter when we do a news letter, Oct – May but only cards during the summer..

Report submitted by;

Edith L Clark , President

Chapter: Rose Capital

Chapter #: TX25

Number of Members: Present 117

Significant Highlights

Successes:

- Maintained Chapter membership numbers and increased member attendance at programs.
- Increased the Chapters involvement with community civic and business leaders through the Tyler Chamber of Commerce's events and committees.

- Increased Chapter recognition throughout the community by more participation in community sponsored events and advertisements that allows the Chapter to promote MOAA.
- Increased our newspaper advertising by using all available area facilities to promote every Chapter sponsored event.
- Increased membership voluntary assistance for Chapter committees and activities. This has given the Chapter two chairpersons for the important committees of legislative and personal affairs.
- Conducted a garage sale fund raiser as a first time event for the Chapter.

Challenges:

- To improve the Chapter's recruitment program through the promotion of "Give Me Ten" and other available actions.
- To increase membership numbers, particularly with younger officers.
- To continue to increase membership interest in and attendance at Chapter activities.
- To build on communication efforts between the membership and the board of officers on future workings of the Chapter.
- To strength the Chapter's involvement and relationship with community organizations in our spear of influence.
- To bolster the recognition of Chapter and MOAA presence within our community.

Future Initiatives:

- Continue to work on establishing a coalition of area military organizations along with Veterans Service officials to work together on common issues within the military community.
- Set and develop a blue print plan of measurable goals for Chapter actions in 2009.
- Develop and establish a plan for simple but effective fund raiser programs that will accommodate future Chapter undertakings.
- Complete the redesign of our Chapter newsletter to include local community advertisement to support Chapter activities.
- Obtain local advertisers for newsletter and other support requirements.

Legislative Efforts

U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert and State Representative Leo Berman are the two principal legislators that the Chapter has a close connection with.

Although, the Chapter has a keen interest in all legislative action that impacts the community regardless of where or who it comes from.

The Chapter takes every opportunity and every available means to notify the membership of e-mail action requirements and encourage them to respond. We do not keep a tabulation, or try to do so, of those who responded to the e-mails.

As for as postcards and letters, the Chapter handles the situation the same as stated in the previous paragraph.

Shirley Lindsay, Secretary

TCC AUXILIARY QUARTERLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 15, 2008

This report concerns DIC.

Confusion has been the situation for many survivors who should collect DIC. MOAA has worked to make DFAS reform the process. Many survivors have not been properly paid due to VA/DFAS miscommunications. Now DFAS is required to:

Provide notice of the net amount to be refunded

Provide a written explanation about why the action is taking place

Provide a detailed accounting of how the amounts were calculated, and

The name and contact info for a real person at DFAS who can answer questions.

It took 3 years to get this far.

As you know, MOAA has been trying to get Congress to stop the DIC offset from SBP payments. This has not happened yet. But, Congress did vote to authorize a monthly Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance or SSIA. All these survivors, whether the military sponsor died on active duty or in retirement will receive the

first payment this November. The amount will be \$50 and will increase annually until it reaches \$100 in 2013.

Before we know it, Congress will adjourn for the year and all bills will die. MOAA will begin again next year to get sponsors to write new bills to stop the DIC offset. Please listen for this to happen and contact your Congressmen to vote YES!

Alice Karr

TCC Auxiliary Liaison

Legislative Report

By David Briggs

A report on Congress' legislative actions prior to the election was sent to all chapters in late October. It is expected that Congress will meet in a special session to pass economic crisis legislation, but such session is not expected to address any goals of MOAA's legislative agenda. The Democrats in Congress have reportedly announced that the strict policy of paying for Government expenditures with savings or tax increases only applied to the current Republican Administration, but would not be binding upon the incoming Democratic Administration. This change could possibly be favorable to the enactment of MOAA goals next year, but it remains to be seen to what extent the Republicans will be willing or able to filibuster legislation in the Senate.

In the meantime, as there are no immediate MOAA matters before Congress, now is a good time to examine your Chapter's legislative activities and determine how you can best increase the extent to which your members communicate with Congress through MOAA emails, MOAA postcards, or your own Chapter postcards. I look forward to discussing this subject at our teleconference 15 Nov 2008.