

**Texas Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
2007 Fourth Quarterly Meeting  
October 5, 2007**

**TCC Meeting held in Grapevine, TX  
in conjunction with the MOAA National President's Symposium**

Present:

Representatives Attending

MOAA Directors (current)

Virginia Alloway, Lt Col, USAF(RET)  
1013 Indian Mound Rd.  
Spicewood, TX 78669  
830-693-4919  
[alloway@tstar.net](mailto:alloway@tstar.net)

Bill Gavitt, Col, USAF (RET)  
Spouse: Shelley  
9007 Seville Way  
Riverside, CA 92504  
951-780-3978  
Council & Chapter Affairs Committee

Col Lee Lange, Director Council & Chapter Affairs  
National MOAA

Officers/Staff-Texas Council of Chapters

President:

George R. (Bob) Rymal, CAPT USN (RET)  
Spouse: Juanita (Hallie)  
4215 Harvest Hill Road  
Carrollton, TX 75010-4112  
972-939-2132  
[jg7346@comcast.net](mailto:jg7346@comcast.net)

Immediate Past President

Edward (Ed) L. Marvin, Lt Col, USAF (RET)  
Spouse: Ruby  
1627 Hawks Ridge  
San Antonio, TX 78248-1705  
210-493-1133 Cell: 210-771-1177  
Ofc: 210-493-6900 Fax: 210-493-2823  
[elmarv@swbell.net](mailto:elmarv@swbell.net) [elmarvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elmarvin@sbcglobal.net)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

John F. Biggerstaff, Capt, USAF (RET)  
 Spouse: Billie  
 3501 FM 3218  
 Commerce, TX 75428  
 903-886-586-4943 Off: 903-886-6040  
 Fax: 903-886-7706  
[jtbjr@koyote.com](mailto:jtbjr@koyote.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (RET)  
 339 Soaring Breeze  
 San Antonio, TX 78253  
 210-256-0022 Cell: 210-416-0502  
[jimbob48@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbob48@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer

Louraine Robertson  
 P.O. Box 8858  
 Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657-8858  
 830-598-6660  
[lir@tstar.net](mailto:lir@tstar.net)

Secretary:  
 (Not Present)

Gilberto D. Rodríguez, LCDR, USNR (RET)  
 Spouse: Andy  
 13422 Vista Del Prado  
 San Antonio, TX 78216-2228  
 210-493-8392  
[gilfly@earthlink.net](mailto:gilfly@earthlink.net)

MOAA Texan Editor:

James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (RET)  
 (see previous information above)

Web Master:  
 (Not in Attendance)

William Manno, Jr., ILT USA (RET)  
 Spouse: Jo  
 308 Scenic Drive  
 Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657  
 830-598-8257  
[wmanno@nctv.net](mailto:wmanno@nctv.net)

Other Attendees:

Austin TX-02

Charles Bush, Col  
 631 Cargill Drive  
 Austin, TX 78727-5704  
 512-264-2618  
[Charles.bush1@us.army.mil](mailto:Charles.bush1@us.army.mil)

Leon L. Holland, Col  
 10705 Leafwood Ln

Austin, TX 78750-3490  
512-335-1224  
Leon.holland@alumni.texas.net

Abilene TX-01

Bernard W. Taylor, Lt Col, USAF (RET)  
2525 Brentwood Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79603  
915-692-3292 (H)  
915-692-3527 (O)

Richard F. Kincaid, Maj, USAF (RET)  
617 Briarwood Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79603

(325) 672-5068 (H)  
(325) 665-6139  
[RFKincaid@att.com](mailto:RFKincaid@att.com)

Greater Dallas TX-03

George R. (Bob) Rymal, CAPT, USN (RET)  
(see previous information above)

David C. Briggs, COL, USA (RET)  
Spouse: Margaret  
8515 Cherry Hill Dr  
Dallas, TX 75243-7025  
(214) 343-9424  
[davidcbriggs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidcbriggs@sbcglobal.net)

Charles Gibbs, Col, USAF (RET.)  
Spouse: Dorothy  
305 Santa Clara St.  
Irving, TX 75062  
(972) 717-3861  
[cndgibbs@tx.rr.com](mailto:cndgibbs@tx.rr.com)

East TX TX-04

John A. McManners, COL, USA (RET)  
Spouse: Geanie  
649 Elkins Lake  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
(936) 439-0112 (H)  
(936) 577-4703

El Paso TX-05

Edwin S. Stone, MAJ, USA (RET.)  
Spouse: Judy  
POBox 6144.  
Ft. Bliss, TX 79906-0144  
(915) 598-6058 (H)

Chapter (915) 568-7868  
[president@elpasomoaa.org](mailto:president@elpasomoaa.org)

J. Morgan Jellett, BG ,USA (RET)

Mary S. Brock (Auxilliary)  
1540 Rocky Bluff  
El Paso, TX 79902  
(915) 532-7294

Heart of Texas Chapter TX-07

Vincent Tobola, Lt Col, USAF (RET.)  
1704 Laurel Lake Dr.  
Waco, TX 76710  
(254) 772-5251 (H)  
(254) 709-7489 (C)

(254) 750-8066 (O)  
[vtobola@aol.com](mailto:vtobola@aol.com)

Highland Lakes TX-08

Virginia Alloway, Lt Col, USAF (RET)  
(see previous information above)

Louraine Robertson  
(see previous information above)

Gene Robbins, LT, USNR (RET)  
Spouse: Betty  
19517 Scenic Dr/  
Spicewood, TX 78669  
(512) 264-1678 (H)  
[gbrobbins@earthlink.net](mailto:gbrobbins@earthlink.net)

Lone Star Officers Club TX-11

John B. Whitsell, CDR, USN (RET)  
Spouse: Suzanne  
2006 Pecan Hollow Ct.  
Keller, TX 76248  
(817) 788-0643 (H)  
(817) 879-7691  
[jbwhitsell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbwhitsell@sbcglobal.net)

Greater Lubbock TX-13

Luther E. Cox, Jr., Lt Col, USAF (RET)  
Spouse: Ginny  
3202 68<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lubbock, TX 79413  
(806) 797-5550 (H)  
(806) 885-3048x4666 (O)  
[leeginny@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leeginny@sbcglobal.net)

San Antonio TX-16

Edward L. (Ed) Marvin, Lt Col, USAF (RET)

(See previous information above)

James R. Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (RET)  
(See previous information above)

Wichita Falls TX-20

Larry Petrash, LTC, USA (RET)  
4709 Matterhorn Dr.  
Wichita Falls, TX 76310  
(940) 691-7024 (H)  
(940) 642-2967 (O)  
[lpetrash@aol.com](mailto:lpetrash@aol.com)

Central Texas TX-22

James A Endicott, Jr., COL USA (RET)  
Spouse: Jean  
P.O. Box 2517

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Harker Heights, TX 76548-0517  
254-634-8000 (O)  
Fax: 254-634-8750  
[endicottjim@hotmail.com](mailto:endicottjim@hotmail.com)

Spencer H. Smith, LtCol, USMC (RET)  
Spouse: Karen  
1805 Meagan Court  
Harker Heights, TX 76548  
(254) 698-4719 (H)  
(254) 200-4023 (O)  
[shs-kgs@hotmail.com](mailto:shs-kgs@hotmail.com)

North East Texas TX-23

John F. Biggerstaff, Capt, USAF (RET)  
(see previous information above)

Mike Spaight, Maj, USAF (RET)  
2316 Park  
Greenville, TX  
(903) 455-8053 (H)  
(903) 456-1809 (C)  
[mspaight@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mspaight@sbcglobal.net)

J.B. Mainard, LTC, USAR (RET)  
Spouse: Marcia  
2665 FM 118  
Greenville, TX 75401  
(903) 455-4304 (H)  
(903) 408-9721 (O)  
[jebm@academicplanet.com](mailto:jebm@academicplanet.com)

Rose Capitol TX-25

John B. Hall, CAPT, USN (RET)

Spouse: Margaret  
17468 Old River Rd.  
Flint, TX 75762  
(903) 534-4739  
[hall4227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hall4227@sbcglobal.net)

Shirley J. Lindsay, LT, USN  
Spouse: Samuel, LCDR, USN (RET)  
600 Bunker  
Tyler, TX 78703  
(903) 894-9642 (H)  
(903) 279-6979 (C)  
[shirlrl@nctv.com](mailto:shirlrl@nctv.com)

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Rio Grande Valley TX-27

Edith L. Clark, CDR, USPHS (RET)  
Spouse: John  
107 Palo Blanco  
San Benito, TX 78586  
(956) 361-4427 (H)  
(956) 795-4750 (C)  
[edith0909@swbell.net](mailto:edith0909@swbell.net)

Alice Karr (and guest, Amanda Jekel)  
3002 Jacaranda Dr.  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
956-425-3730 (H)  
956-244-0170 (C)  
[akarr1@rgb.rr.com](mailto:akarr1@rgb.rr.com)

North Dallas TX-31

Richard (Dick) Johnston, LTC, USA (RET)  
Spouse: Pat  
5821 Concord Lane  
The Colony, TX 75056  
(469) 384-2147  
[pjdjtx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjdjtx@sbcglobal.net)

Richard E. Jones, Maj, USAF (RET)  
Spouse: Paula  
2928 Southridge  
Grapevine, TX  
(817) 421-4617  
[djj57@verizon.net](mailto:djj57@verizon.net)

Thomas Lytle, MAJ, USA (RET)  
Spouse: M'Lou  
2524 Willowdale

Carrollton, TX 75006  
(972) 754-5100 (O)  
[t.lytle@GTE.net](mailto:t.lytle@GTE.net)

Rose Marie Vickery, Lt Col, USAF (RET)  
P.O. Box 271516  
Flower Mound, TX 75027-7093  
[pvickery10@verizon.net](mailto:pvickery10@verizon.net)

### Chapters Not Present

Ft. Wolters TX-06, Coastal Bend TX-18, Texas Panhandle TX-19, Brazos Valley TX-21, Texas Hill Country TX-24. Golden Triangle TX-26, Ft. Clark-Del Rio TX-29, Oil Patch TX-30, North Coastal Bend TX-32

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### Meeting Minutes

Sixteen chapters were represented at this quarterly meeting of the Texas Council of Chapters (TCC). On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the meeting was called to order by President Rymal at 1330 hours. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were made by President Bob Rymal.

Bob Rymal called for the minutes of the last meeting. On Page 4, there was a correction regarding the number of veterans in Texas. There are over 17 million veterans in Texas, not 13 as stated. Bob mentioned that Texas provides over 10% of the total military forces of the U.S. It doesn't mean they are all Texans, but that they are assigned to military bases in Texas. The minutes were approved with the one correction.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Biggerstaff's report: John had nothing to report. Bob explained that John was trying to get a new chapter started in San Angelo.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Cunningham's report: Jim wanted to remind everyone that on November 6, there are a couple of amendments to the TX constitution, and it is very important to vote for them. One in particular is property taxes relief for 100% disable vets.

Treasurer's report: Louraine Robertson. This is the report for 16 August 2007 to 3 October 2007 for the Texas Council of Chapters, Military Officers of America. The beginning balance on 16 August was \$4,875.83. We had interest income of \$8.45, dues of \$23.20, and \$250 from National MOAA from the Give Me 10 campaign for a balance of \$5,157.48. Expenses for the quarterly meeting in Abilene of \$245.40, giving us an ending balance on 3 October of \$4,912.08 which is the same balance in American Bank. On the report you can see the chapters that have paid their dues, and the only other one we hope to get is Brazos Valley. I am not going to push it because the dues for 2008 goes out in December, so maybe they will join for two years. The treasurer's report was approved. Louraine indicated on the back of the handout was the proposed TCC 2008 budget. The 2008 budget was approved.

There is no secretary's report. Gil Rodriguez is attending the wedding of his grandson in El Paso.

TCC Auxiliary Report – Alice Karr

The Auxiliary Advisory Committee has received comments that “auxiliary” may not be an accurate term for surviving spouses. This might be correct, as there are more and more surviving ‘men’ spouses. You can ask your members who are in auxiliary positions to give their opinions. If you like you can email answers to [auxiliarycommittee@moaa.org](mailto:auxiliarycommittee@moaa.org). This committee has said that The Military Officer magazine is considering an article about the experiences of survivors of those killed in combat from WWII to the present and how they impacted changes in survivor benefits and support. Could each chapter ask their surviving spouses who experienced this if they will share the experience? Remarriage doesn’t disqualify your experience. You can email these to [auxiliarycommittee@moaa.org](mailto:auxiliarycommittee@moaa.org). I would suggest that it be emailed from your chapter (maybe Texas would get recognition). You need to include the survivor’s name, address, telephone number, email address, and in which war the spouse served. Remember to keep telling your members to contact their representatives to vote to stop deducting DIC from SBP.

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### Chapter Reports

#### Northeast Texas Chapter TX-23 (Mike Spaight)

We have a formal dinner 4 times a year and a lunch bunch. Also we donated to the DFW USO and John brought up that we are planning to get together Sunday afternoon at DFW to see the group off at 1430. We ask that you join us if you don’t have anything else to do.

#### Rose Capitol Chapter TX-25 (John Hall)

John took over as president about two years ago, and they were about to disband the chapter. They could not get officers to serve. They have 9 new members, and they are trying to get the word out that not only can retired officers join, but active duty as well. John thinks the chapter will be OK. The chapter has a few more members; we are up over 50. We have a good mailing list that’s active, and we’ve increased activities to four times a year. We are pleased with our progress, and we hope to continue next year.

#### Lone Star Officer Club TX-11 (Jim Costin)

Greetings to Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA representatives from MOAA’s 5-Star Chapter, Lone Star Officers Club of Fort Worth.

- Highlight of the reporting period was presentation of MOAA’s 2007 5-Star Award for Excellence to Lone Star Officers Club (LSOC). This is Lone Star’s third receipt of the prestigious award. A tip of the hat to the 2007 Chapter Officers and Board members for outstanding planning and performance. The award ribbon will be attached to LSOC’s Chapter Flag at our formal Christmas dinner/dance.
- Monthly Chapter meetings continued during North Texas’ “Dog Days of Summer”. Attendance was down as normal for the period; however, members in attendance continued to enjoy outstanding sit-down dinners, entertainment, and speakers. Our chapter continued to actively pursue goals in support of MOAA’s “Give Me 10” Program; however, recruitment continued to be impeded by no active duty base in our area, and apparent apathy by local Guard, Reserve, and unaffiliated MOAA members.

- Lone Star's 2007 JROTC/ROTC Scholarship and Awards Program concluded with presentation of four \$2000.00 scholarships to three college-bound JROTC Cadets and one continuing ROTC Cadet. Members enjoyed the company of the deserving recipients and their families at our meeting/dinner. Earlier, LSOC members honored 20 high school and 3 university cadets with presentations of MOAA certificates and medals for outstanding performance.
- Chapter Legislative Liaison was extremely active during the period. In addition to extensive legislative updates and comment presented to the membership in our monthly publication *PARADE*, over a thousand postcards were completed by the membership and mailed by the chapter to our congressional representatives. The chapter took advantage of Congress' August recess to perform one-on-one visits with local representatives. During face-to-face meetings we presented what we considered pertinent of MOAA/Chapter legislative initiatives. Meetings were most cordial and considered very productive. Our reps do in fact know who Lone Star Officers Club is...and importantly, what we in MOAA stand for.

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- The Chapter Officer Nominating Committee formulated the preliminary 2008 LSOC Officer slate. Officer nominations were made at the September meeting. Final nominations will be presented to the membership and voting conducted at our November meeting.
- Planning continues for Lone Star's gala formal Christmas dinner/dance. The highlight of our Chapter's year, the annual dinner/dance again features a 9-piece dinner/dance orchestra, expanded sit-down dinner menu, installation of 2008 officers, and special presentations. The chapter traditionally subsidizes Price of Chapter Member dinners. A cordial invitation is extended to chapter member's special guests, area chapter members, and all unaffiliated MOAA members. COME JOIN US!!

#### Heart of Texas Chapter TX-07 (Vincent Tobola)

The chapter is in the same position as some other chapters by us not having an active installation in Waco. We're kind of holding our own on membership, and of course, trying to recruit new members. It's a big challenge. It's also a challenge to keep the members active in participating. We're fortunate enough to have monthly dinner meetings as well as monthly business meetings. We have published in the newsletter the entire schedule of 2008 meetings. Of course, you still have to continually remind people of the meeting. Regarding our scholarship program, we continue to have success with participation and local involvement with our golf tournament that we have in April that supports the scholarship. We've awarded a couple \$1000 scholarships to the top performers from the local ROTC unit. In the springtime, we recognize the outstanding sophomore at the local ROTC with a \$250 scholarship. We also recognize the top cadet in each of the 5 JROTC programs with MOAA metal and certificate along with a \$150 savings bond. Recruitment is the big thing for us, and advocating what benefits we offer.

#### Greater Lubbock Chapter TX-13 (Lee Cox)

We don't meet in July; that's one of the two months we take off. We did have our regular dinner meeting in August and September. Our average participation at meetings is around 45-50 people. We always have a guest speaker, and the list of programs we have every year are generated by the membership at large. At every meeting I put out a piece of paper on every table that says tell us what you want to hear, and we get some good suggestions. Next month there are some issues being voted on November 6<sup>th</sup> while

in Lubbock they will be voting on a new slate of officers. We have a retired Army general who will take my job and a new vice president.

North DFW Chapter TX-31 (Dick Johnston)

Despite the hiatus caused by the summer, TX 31 has continued to make some valuable contributions. Select members have been continuing to meet and greet service members returning from the combat zone through DFW airport. This effort can only be described as successful judging from the pleased and often surprised looks on the faces of the returnees. Even though the soldiers are anxious to get on to their final destinations, many stop to thank and embrace the greeters. This of course results in our feeling that we have accomplished a great deal for the troops.

Also, TX 31, under the direction of Mrs. Patty Little, spouse of Past President Lt Col Bob Little, has been participating in a program to keep new children's books flowing into the DFW USO. The USO provides the service members with the books as part of the United Through Reading Military Program. The program enables deploying service members who are waiting for their plane to read children's books on

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camera. The video is burned on to a DVD and mailed free of charge, with the books, to the service members' children back home. Our hope is to maintain this effort throughout the course of the current conflict. So far our membership has embraced the effort and we anticipate eventually passing on an unlimited number of books to the USO. This program and Mrs. Little's efforts was a major item in the MOAA National Internet magazine.

TX 31 efforts during the quarter toward gaining new members for the chapter and for National have been quite successful. Under the guidance of our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Lt Col Rose Marie Vickery, our membership is now 102. We have recruited 15 new chapter members, 9 of whom have also joined National (some came to us as National members). This is in the face of losing 8 members due to moves and non-payment of dues. Rose Marie has contacted 63 potential new members since Jan. '07. 15 have joined giving us a recruitment success rate of 24%. Attached is Lt Col Vickery's assessment of her efforts, revealing those which have been successful and those which have not been so.

TX 31 is currently planning for our last two membership meetings in November and December. The November meeting will be held for the first time at the Lantana Country Club in Lantana, TX. We plan to advertise this meeting as much as possible in hopes that new members will be attracted to the chapter as well as the venue. December's meeting will be held at the Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas. This dinner/dance affair will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual and we look to also attract new members through this venue.

Finally, we have formed a Nomination Committee to seek our candidates for the Board of Directors positions. Fortunately, most of the current board has agreed to continue in place for 2008, however we hope to have interest expressed from the general membership in serving in some capacity.

Membership Update, 1 October 2007

Membership of 102 (Overall gain of 7 since 1 Jan 07), plus 1 Honorary Member

- Recruited 15 new chapter members/9 new national members
  - 100% of new chapter members are national members
  - 7 new chapter members were already MOAA national members
  - 8 new chapter members also joined national

- 1 member was a chapter member already, then joined national
- 14 new chapter members were guests at general membership meetings
- 1 new chapter member was a former chapter member
- Added 1 honorary member, Tommy Franks, GEN USA (RET) in August

- Lost 8 members
  - 2 moved out of the area
  - 6 non-payment of 2006 or 2007 dues

#### Recruiting Efforts

- VP for Membership contacted 63 potential new members from one to several times, since Jan 07 (15 joined; 24% recruitment success rate)
- Sources of New Members
  - 8 referred by current chapter members
  - 5 saw announcement of general membership meeting in local newspaper

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- 1 former chapter member moved back into area
- 1 referred through MOAA website chapter POCs

- Successful efforts
  - Personal referrals from current chapter members
  - Announcements of meetings in local newspapers
  - Personal follow-up with guests attending membership meetings
  - VP for Membership devised Potential Members Contact spreadsheet to facilitate follow-up with potential members
- Unsuccessful efforts
  - Contacting veterans through local church veterans group
  - Contacting JROTC and ROTC instructors
  - Contacting veterans published in newspaper's Letters to the Editor
  - Contacting veterans from other veterans groups
  - No new members from national MOAA's invitation sent to local members who are not affiliated with a local chapter

#### El Paso Chapter TX-05 (Ed Stone)

#### Chapter accomplishments since last report dated 8/17/2007:

1. Continuation of aggressive recruiting under 2007 GMT program from March 1...[www.elpasomoaa.org](http://www.elpasomoaa.org)
2. have recruited to date, 300+...offering 1x year free Chapter membership for MOAA national members in exchange for member recruiting 5x GMTs by cob 12/14/2007.
3. Published Special Scholarship Edition outlining our new program.
4. Began fund raising drive for El Paso Chapter designated scholarship with The MOAA Scholarship Fund.
5. 2 Board Meetings...

#### Planned activities going forward:

1. 2x Board Meetings and 2x General Membership meetings remaining...October 10 Speaker:

Colonel Emmett Schaille, Commander 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Army Evaluation Task Force), 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division...a future force integration brigade...high tech.visiting with us about combat in Iraq and future weapons systems; and, 12/12 Board and Officer Installation with COL Bob Burns, Fort Bliss Garrison Commander, talking about BRAC changes specific to Fort Bliss...along with a one man C&W band banging out Christmas Tunes served with obligatory dish of the season – turkey roll...

2. 2008 Board and Officer slate published and broadcast...election to be conducted 10/10.
3. Preparing for change in Chapter leadership by beginning planning with the new team formulating their own program for 2008 to begin executing out of the box from the moment they take over.

#### Central Texas Chapter TX-22 (Spencer Smith)

#### 1. Chapter officers and directors are:

##### 2007 Officers:

Chapter President COL (R) Frank Somera, Jr.

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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	COL (R) Patrick Christ
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	COL (R) Gene Wentworth
Secretary	COL (R) Joslyn Portmann
Treasurer	LTC (R) Tony Kosta
Past President	LTC (R) Len Gulig
Chaplain	CWO (R) Chuck Mangone

##### Directors:

BG (R) Arthur Junot  
COL (R) James Endicott  
COL (R) Elwood H. Shemwell  
LTC (R) Sam Murphey  
LTC (R) William, T. Nance  
LTC (R) Spencer H. Smith

#### 2. Programs for past two quarters:

- a. March - LTG (R) Don Jones, presentation: Volunteerism.
- b. April - Dr. Jim Hawkins, Superintendent of Killeen Independent School District, presentation: Status of Schools in the Metroplex Area
- c. May - LTG (R) Dave Palmer, presentation: Review of his new book, George Washington and Benedict Arnold, Tale of Two Patriots.
- d. June - LTC (R) Wes Riddle, presentation: Status of the Middle East.
- e. July - COL (R) Bill Parry, Director, The Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, presentation: Status of III Corps, Fort Hood and BRAC.
- f. August - Congressman John Carter, presentation: Report of Visit to The Armed Forces in Iraq.

#### 3. Scholarship Program: Please see narrative below.

4. Chapter Project: The Board and Membership are working on procurement and placement of a Memorial at the Killeen Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Cost data and pertinent information has been procured. The project has been presented to the membership for consideration and has received approval. Funding the project remains the current challenge.

#### Scholarship Program:

Our Scholarship program is tied in with our JROTC Awards Program. We support a total of six local JROTC Programs. These are Killeen HS Army JROTC, Ellison HS Army JROTC, Harker Heights HS Army JROTC, Shoemaker HS Army JROTC, Copperas Cove HS Army JROTC, and Temple HS Air Force JROTC. Each year we award an MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate to an outstanding cadet from each of the six high schools. The selection for the medal recipient is made by the Senior Military Instructor of each school. The name of the recipient is forwarded to me, I procure the certificate and medal from MOAA National (at no cost to us), print the recipient's name on the certificate, frame the

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certificate and either personally present or arrange for presentation at the school or JROTC awards assembly. For the scholarship, we request each school nominate one graduating cadet to compete for the \$1,000 scholarship. Nominated cadets must furnish a resume', a letter of recommendation from their Senior Military Instructor, and a two page essay on "What is the Role of an Officer in Today's Military" (the topic can and has been modified by decision of the Chapter BOD). When nominations are received, a panel is convened to review and rank order the nominations. The Scholarship Chairman then presents the results to the Chapter President for concurrence. In order to receive the scholarship, the cadet must enroll in an accredited college for the next fall semester, enroll in the Senior ROTC program at college and provide a letter from a school official attesting to this. If the selectee does not meet these criteria the scholarship is awarded to the next nominee in the order of merit list established by the panel who does meet the criteria. If a selectee receives an appointment to a service academy or service academy preparatory school, the scholarship goes to the next in order of merit. The goal is to assist a deserving student attending a civilian college while pursuing a commission as an officer.

The approximate annual time-line for the scholarship and awards program is as follows:

February	Send letters to Senior Instructors with requirements for medal and scholarship
April	Receive medal and scholarship inputs from Instructors
April/May	Attend Awards Ceremonies to present Medals
May	Convene scholarship awards panel
May	Announce scholarship
May	Provide critique to Senior Instructors regarding nomination packages (ways to improve)
June	Provide a letter to scholarship recipient on requirements to receive money
September	NORMALLY receive letter from school official attesting to meeting requirements
October	Chapter treasurer sends check to school's financial aid office for recipient
November	Follow-up letter to recipient if nothing heard from school
December	Second follow-up if nothing heard
January	Notify alternate if primary has not claimed the scholarship

Not really short, but details everything I do. I am currently awaiting a letter from Texas A&M attesting to the status of our 2007 selectee.

#### Greater Dallas Chapter TX-08 (Charles Gibbs)

The chapter continues to shrink. As of February 1, our membership consisted of 277 members plus 95 auxiliary members. We hold general membership meeting bi-monthly, and executive committee meetings in between the general meetings. There's one significant change we have made. Instead of dinner meetings, we're now going to luncheon meetings with the exception of the Christmas meeting where we have installation of officers. Our membership chairman has been very aggressive in attempts to reach known members to renew their memberships by making personal telephone calls. Unfortunately, we haven't seen too good of a result from that yet. A couple of noteworthy things we have done in the past year, we visited 8 U.S. congressional offices locally in addition to one senator. All seemed very receptive to our visit. We have awarded this year, three \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors and 42 MOAA metals to JROTC cadets. Cumulative, the chapter has given a total of 20, \$1000 scholarships. Our MOAAC women's club have very entertaining programs plus bridge sessions. Also, we do have a very aggressive 'meet the troops' from Iraq out at DFW airport. David Briggs addressed Col Lange to say that

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Dallas does not have a military installation close to us. The nearest one is Carswell AFB 30 miles away in Ft. Worth. We feel that the natural constituency to keep MOAA alive has got to be getting younger members from the Reserve and National Guard. Trying to find those people is a pretty tough job because there are no published rosters anyplace. It would be nice if National would get in this and help with contacts in the NG and Reserve units by having Admiral Ryan visit with those commanders and set up an endorsement of MOAA since we want to carry legislative goals of those organizations. Col Lange said that Admiral Ryan is visiting with the Adjutant Generals in every state he visits, and that's about half the states right now, and tell them about what we're doing. The Admiral is working right from the top plus we have some very good relationships with National Guard and reserve folks. General Blum runs the Reserve side and will be speaking at our annual meeting. When we make chapter visits, we ask that chapter to arrange meetings if you know where they are, and we visit the commander and talk to him about what we're doing at MOAA and we leave some literature. I think we can do better by showing what we have to benefit NG and Reserve members. We need to get that stuff in your hands, so that when you make your own calls after we do what we can do, I believe they will be more inclined to look at your chapter more closely. A question was asked if there's a list of these anyplace. Col Lange said there is a staff member at National who handles the Guard and one who handles the Reserve. When the question was posed about a list, they indicated they didn't have one! I've asked them to go to the top and find something – someone in the Defense Department knows where these units are. Why can't we know where they are? I don't think this is top secret, but it's just a matter of time in getting those lists. It's also not easy for local chapters to get in to see these people. Col Lange said that the NG and Reserve units have reorganized too, but – we should be able to get lists out to you. Col Lange indicated that in Virginia, the Council went to the top there and asked what agenda items they wanted us to address. They did that and began getting those guys into the fold. Not that the VCC changed laws and make everything rosy, but they managed to get the leadership of the Guard sensing that we're on the same side, and it rolled down to the local units. They've made several in-roads into the units, but keep in mind, this is just one instance. Also, the Council didn't get in the door the first time. This took a multitude of steps banging on the door, and they finally broke through.

#### Highland Lakes Chapter TX-08 (Virginia Alloway)

Response to sponsoring The Vanishing River Cruise for the Wounded Warriors at BAMC was very positive. This will probably be accomplished in early '08 and will be done at the same time as the Eagle's tour. The Intrepid visit garnered little response.

Since the speaker we wanted for our last meeting was unavailable we held a business mtg. Also, since the previous Friday was POW/MIA Remembrance Day, we held the POW/MIA ceremony. Many of the group had never witnessed the ceremony. It was well received.

Gene Robbins, 1st VP, sponsored a resolution for the chapter to approve the House bill establishing a monument/memorial to the spouses of service members. This is Bill 512. One of his grandson's brigade is in the burn unit at BAMC with burns over 80% of his body. The young warrior's mother is staying at the Guest House. Gene gave the mother a gift card to the PX in the chapter's name.

The chapter holds election of officers in Nov. Volunteers have stepped forward to fill all but one office.

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I received an email from the Air Force Nurse's Association. Friday morning at the Pentagon, wounded warriors are escorted from the bus to a luncheon. The generals and other high-ranking officers wheel the wheelchairs. It's a beautiful ceremony. I sent this to Steve Stowbridge saying this would be an excellent article for the magazine. Steve emailed me back to say that they had tried, and the Pentagon does not want anyone to do it. If any chapter wants to try, it's a beautiful article. See me.

Alamo Chapter TX-16 (Ed Marvin)

The chapter continues to move smartly along increasing membership being the most difficult challenge. We continue to work the issue.

We are proud to say that we have finished and received formal Board approval for our strategic plan. From that plan we have developed up to date job descriptions on every leadership position in the organization as well as an organizational chart. It is noted that initiative is an agenda item on the Texas Council of Chapters quarterly meeting. Each attendee will receive a notebook containing the information that we have developed during the unfolding of this project.

Candidly, this initiative happened because of some very talented people who have special talents in the area of planning. They are leaders and were able to guide us through the project. Special mention is made to the leadership team in their diligence in staying involved.

As mentioned, membership continues to be a problem i.e. keeping our membership up. We are doing quite well in getting more active duty officers in the chapter. We are currently in the process of visiting with the senior commanders in our area providing them with an honorary membership to the chapter. We think this makes good sense because that way they can see the good the organization does, and then ask their subordinate officers to consider joining. In the long run, this will be a very good strategy in our view.

We are continuing to support the retiree days in the San Antonio area at Lackland, Ft Sam Houston and Randolph. We are trying very hard to get the Air Force Villages I & II more involved in our chapter affairs and that is meeting with some success.

I would also comment that we have a very fine Program Chairperson. The social programs that we are putting on, the luncheons, the picnics, the parties are really picking up in attendance and that is exciting for us because we know that it is serving our membership. We are going to try to enhance our Christmas Party by encouraging members to bring a couple of friends to enjoy the evening.

We are proud to report that we were honored as a Four Star chapter. I would have liked to continue as a five star but are trying to get back to that austere group next year.

#### Rio Grande Valley Chapter TX-27 (Edith Clark)

This summer our chapter decided to have a summer casual meeting every month at the time of our regularly scheduled meeting. We felt that those who do not evacuate out of the heat of the summer might like to have a casual meeting; a meeting without a special speaker. Instead, however, each member was challenged to have something to say about what they have been doing to make the long hot summer a wonderful place to be. The meetings were a great place to make new friends and one in which we could

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just visit. It was a nice thing to do. Most of our regular summer members were unable to travel for many different reasons. All seemed to love the casual meetings. We are now ready to set forth and try to find and inform all of the active and retired military officers we can find and offer them a chance to make new friends and keep them informed on what is going on in our services and MOAA and Washington. In the National House of Representatives there is a Bill requesting a VA hospital be built in the Rio Grande Valley. There are over 100,000 retirees in the Valley. It is HR-538. We need all of Texas MOAA members to address this issue. There is a need for 10,000 people to agree and sign the petition. The link to the petition is: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/963342639>

#### Abilene Chapter TX-01 (Richard Kincaid)

We do have an active duty base, but it isn't as easy as it seems. All of the B-1's have departed, and they are rebuilding the runway system so we have 650 people gone. Recruiting is always a problem with older members passing away, and we don't have many new members come in. We have had several of the active duty people come in. One was a membership committee chair at one time and did a disastrous job. We do meet for dinner every month on a Monday except in July. Programs can be a challenge just to be interesting to all the people. Half the time we have a good number of B-1's and the C-130's that are deployed. The base normally would have 5-6,000 active-duty people, but nearly 1,000 of those are gone all the time.

Bob Rymal introduced Col Bill Gavitt, a member of the MOAA Board of Director's from California. Bill indicated he came here to plead about a Bill in Congress HR-551 that affects the Veteran's Home Loan Program for Texas and California. There were 5 states at one time whereby home loans were financed by general obligation, tax-free bonds. The other 3 states accepted a settlement last year that gave them a little larger amount of money to loan out. California Dept. of Veterans Affairs has been asked to increase the amount of money they can lend and open the eligibility. Right now, they can't give a loan to a veteran who came in the service before 1 Jan. 1977. That's 30 years ago. So that money is basically useless to our veterans in TX and CA. There are financial alternatives, but the general obligation bonds are tax free,

and don't cost anyone anything. We have 53 reps in CA, 51 have signed on to co-sponsor. TX is a different story, you have 32 reps and only 15 have signed on. If more reps from TX don't sign on, no one is going to give a darn about this. I'm asking you please write these 16 reps and get them on board.

Bob Rymal introduced Col Lee Lange from MOAA National. He thanked TCC for helping make the symposium a success, and at the symposium, many speakers will try to address all the challenges brought up by most chapter reports, namely recruitment, advocacy, retention, etc. There's also some fun planned. It starts off tonight with a BBQ. I've been in charge of Council and Chapter Affairs now for 9 months, and my job is to make it better. I have an assistant, Col. Barry Wright, and you'll get to meet him and others later. I also want to address John Biggerstaff's question about money for chapter development. John has been working to start a new chapter in San Angelo, and he wanted some help with reimbursement. We did reimburse him, and further, we have addressed this in our 2008 budget. We have to have resources to help councils and chapters start new chapters, so this has been addressed. I would also ask to be part of any organizational meeting in a start-up position. John asked a question about getting The Military Officers Magazine in USO's. In answer to that, we are fixing that. We're re-doing our distribution list, and we're putting them in there.

Bob Rymal introduced the guest speaker, Dale Vande Hey, Col. USAF (RET). I work for the DoD State Liaison Office (DSOO). The job primarily consists of providing information to states regarding quality of

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life issues for the military family. Either when they relocate from state to state, and old state regulations no longer apply. This affects education of the children of military members, spouses, and the military member himself. So, my job is not to lobby, but to advise states and give them information on how to help these sacrificing individuals when they relocate. So we created the USA for Military Families Initiative and zeroed in on 10 key issues. If you stop by my booth, I'll be happy to lay those out for you. Some of these issues are education of children, National Guard and Reserve coming back from deployment, military severely injured, payday lending, voting rights for those who are deployed. All of these, and more, are state-controlled issues in the family spectrum. Three people cannot handle all 50 states, so there are 10 contractors like me. The DoD quickly realized that these contractors should belong to the specific services, i.e., Army, Navy, etc., so the DoD paid the tab but sent us to deal with the specific services. I'm with the Navy, so I go to Navy installations and work through them. The Navy liaisons are conveniently located in Tacoma, San Diego, Jacksonville and Hampton Roads. Those are where the four Navy regions are. The Army liaisons are stationed out of Ft. Belvoir, VA, Ft. Riley, KS and Ft. Bliss, TX. The Air Force liaisons are located in Colorado Springs, San Antonio and Charleston SC. I wear two hats. On the AF side, I visit with the Air Force from a family programs perspective. For DoD, I am a legislative watcher at the state level. DoD has not done this before, and it's really something. Some things going on in Texas. Texas has a strong ISFAC: Inter-Service Family Activities Committee. They meet every quarter and are coordinated by the State Family Programs Director out of Austin. The next meeting is in Houston in March, and next July they'll be in El Paso. Perhaps one of your chapter members would like to go to the meetings and get familiar with what they're doing. Through ISFAC, they are bringing together all the organizations in the state, i.e. American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc. al. If you're not already aware, Texas has a TRIAD fund: Texas Resources for Iraq and Afghanistan Deployees. It's money that came from a foundation in California. \$15 million all together, \$5 million each to the foundations in San Antonio, Dallas and the Permian Basin. If your organization thinks it can add to the development of a program to help men and women coming back or going to the war, there is a grant-writing process, and you may be able to get some funding for a particular project. The AG of Texas, LTG has started a Partner's Across Texas. It is a similar program to the one in Minnesota called Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The General's project is trying to reach out to all the organizations in Texas,

building a massive web site, so that if our returning or any service member who needs some help, has some connectivity in Texas between the Guard, the Reserve, and the like, can get the help he or she needs. Many things going on, and I'll be here all day tomorrow if you have any questions or comments, I'll be happy to answer or take notes on up the line.

Bob Rymal then introduced ADM Ryan who talked briefly about his trip to Iraq and talking to the troops. He thanked the chapters for contributing ideas to National, and said it was the time and efforts of the local chapters and the State Councils who are spearheading legislation to change military service member's and retirees lives for the better. ADM Ryan presented Bob Rymal with a plaque for exceptional leadership and meritorious service in support of the objectives and programs of the MOAA signed on October 5 in Alexandria VA by Adm. Ryan.

National Director Lt Col Virginia Alloway said she had no report. She deferred her time to Lee, and everything else was covered.

A new business comment was made by Jim Endicott about the ESGR, Employers Support for the Guard and Reserve, who has a booth here. Omnibus men and women are needed to help these people who are in service or trying to serve and are being given a hard time by their employers.

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Louraine Robertson made a motion that the TCC donate \$50 to the USO children's book program at DFW. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ed Marvin was chairman of the nominating committee for the TCC 2008/2009 officers. He was aided in his committee by Ginny Alloway, Jim Endicott, and Ed McCarthy. The nominees are:

Jim Cunningham, President  
Spencer Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
David Briggs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

Attendees were asked if there were any additional nominees. There being no other nominees, the slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

Virginia Alloway indicated that the auxiliary members and spouses are a part of our organization. Louraine is a spouse, not an auxiliary member. I have visited many chapters and was astounded to see that auxiliary members and spouses are not and cannot be elected to an office in the chapter. This is something that you should take back to your chapters, that auxiliary and spouses are members and should be utilized.

Bob Rymal thanked the State of Texas and all the chapters that have allowed me to serve in this capacity for the last two years. It has been one of the most honorable deeds that I have asked to do. In my service career I was privileged to have commanded two different squadrons. I learned something from that. I learned that in the Navy I can delegate. Ed Marvin said that in two years I was going to head the nominating committee. We're going to do it different. I am going to appoint a president, two vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. You can give me your names now or watch your mail! We tried the last couple years to keep everyone aware of what's going on. There is a gentleman in Austin who has been sending me information which I have been distributing to the chapters that have to do with

legislative issues within the state and some outside of the state. I hope that the list I have to be distributing it to is also distributing it to chapter members because that's the only avenue I have to get the information out which is vital to all members of the military family. It's a great group, and today is the greatest showing I have ever seen for an organization.

Louraine Robertson, on behalf of the Executive Committee, presented outgoing TCC President, Bob Rymal with a small token of our good times together. Bob unwrapped the gift to reveal a Texas tie. Bob thanked everyone and said he looked forward to the cowboy BBQ party tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 1515.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilberto D. Rodriguez, Jr.  
LCDR,USNR (RET)  
Secretary, TCC

I was unable to attend this meeting due to conflict with a family life event (my grandson was getting married).

Many thanks to Jim Cunningham for recording the meeting for me.