

1st Quarter 2010 Officer and Chapter Reports to Texas Council of Chapters

Officer Reports

REPORT OF 2ND VICE PRESIDENT – LEGISLATIVE

Little legislative action has thus far this year occurred in Congress, which has been stymied with health care legislation. However, the Senate did approve legislation to fix the Medicare/TRICARE doctor payment problem for five years. Now, the House has to approve it. No action, of course, has occurred in the Texas Legislature, as it is not currently in session.

Accordingly, now is an excellent time for Chapters to take steps to prepare for 2010 legislative activities. MOAA has announced its Congressional legislative goals which appear on pp. 40-46 of the January, 2010, issue of the Military Officer. Chapter officers are urged to make and keep copies of these goals and become familiar with them, so as to insure Chapter federal legislative activities are consistent with MOAA's nationwide efforts. MOAA has announced that the February issue of the Military Officer contains four tear-out letters to key congressional leaders urging them to sustain needed defense budget funding and protect military health care. Chapter officers are requested to urge their Chapter members to sign, stamp, and mail these letters. Copies are posted on MOAA's website, if you need additional copies.

TCC will be working on Texas legislative goals for the next session of the Texas Legislature. Chapters are urged both now and throughout the year to communicate with the undersigned (davidcbriggs@sbcglobal.net) and with Jim Cunningham (jimbob48@sbcglobal.net) with respect to any suggestions you may have for inclusion in such goals.

Chapters in preparing their Membership Directories for 2010 are encouraged to include as much of the following legislative information in such Directories as practicable:

1. List of Congressional Senators and Representatives (including their district numbers) in whose districts Chapter members reside, with both local and Washington, DC, addresses and telephone numbers.

2. List of Texas Legislature Senators and Representatives, including their respective district numbers, in whose districts Chapter members reside, with local and Austin addresses and telephone numbers.
3. Beside each Chapter member's name in the Directory identify the respective numbers of the Congressional Representative District, Texas Legislature Senatorial District, and Texas Legislature Representative District in which such Chapter member resides.
4. At the bottom of the respective Congressional and Texas Legislature address lists, indicate the number of Chapter members (including spouses) who reside in each district.

Chapters will find that by including such information in their Directories, not only will the task of the Chapter legislative personnel be enormously facilitated, but also communication by individual Chapter members with their elected representatives will be made much easier.

To obtain names, addresses, and phone numbers of the respective Congressional Representatives, and Texas Legislature Senators and Representatives, of a Chapter member go to the web page at

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/District.aspx>

entitled "Who Represents Me?—Member By District." Click on the block entitled "Find District." On the page that then appears click the first item entitled "District by Address." Complete the information for such Chapter member on the page that appears and then click "Submit." The respective addresses and phone numbers for all such elected representatives will appear. Occasionally, two representatives will be given for a single address. In such case it will be necessary to telephone the offices concerned because such Chapter member lives near the boundary line between districts. For Texas Congressional Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hucheson go to their respective WebPages and click on "local offices" for office addresses and telephone numbers.

Maps of elected representative districts can be obtained by clicking the block "District Information" on the webpage entitled "Who Represents Me?—Member By District" and then, on the page that appears, click "Maps." Insert the district number and type of district in the appropriate places and then click "Submit." A map of the district will appear.

If anyone has any difficulty with any of the websites, kindly contact the undersigned for assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Briggs

REPORT OF MOAA BOARD MEMBER – GINNY ALLOWAY

REPORT TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION AND TEXAS COALITION OF VETERANS MEETINGS

Tom Pauken Chair, TX Workforce Commission: Currently the unemployment rate in Texas is 8.3% vs 10% nationwide. He encourages employers to hire veterans. For returning veterans the unemployment rate is 20%. Veterans should be first in line for employment. Thus far 3,500 veterans have been helped. He encourages veterans to scan the workforce webpage for assistance.

Sandie Palomo-Gonzalez, PhD, Program Officer Community Initiative San Antonio Area Foundation: Her topic: Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment (TRIAD) Fund. The purpose of the organization is to expand assistance to Veterans. Their priorities are: mental health, family support, employment training, and gaps in physical health services. In the San Antonio area foundation in '07-'09 made 68 grants for at total of 10.4million. They provide free mental health services for OEF/OIF service members. They provide individual, couples and family counseling services. Funds provided may be used for mortgages, rent and other essential necessities. Grants: over 55,000 families have been served in TX with over 15,000 served by Grants from the TRIAD fund.

Daniel D. King, Chair State Bar's Veterans Initiative: this is a new program and consists of TX lawyers for TX veterans. (TX is the first state to start this program.) It currently consists of 47 committee members who assist veterans with their legal problems.

THE HONORABLE LETICIA VAN DE PUTTE, Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Military Installations: The accomplishments during the last legislative session were the passage of the 1) lotto scratch off to benefit veterans; 2) Hazelwood act to pass on to spouse/children; 3) 100% tax exemption on homestead for veterans 100% disabled – does not apply to widow/families; 4) absentee ballots to go out 45 days before election and electronic means for deployed military; 5) TX Armed Services Scholarship Program of \$10,000 per year for students attending a credited ROTC programs. Not mentioned was the passage of Senate Bill 90 relating to adoption of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

COLONEL CONNIE McNABB, Chief, Joint Staff TX Military Forces: topic, Post Deployment Mental Health Issues. Currently the Guard has 20,000 deployed. On returning their major problems are mental health issues. Thus far there have been 10 suicides. They look for a common denominator and it is family issues/separation, etc. Another is the isolation or no veteran help/ no VA clinic/hospital in the area – geographic location of the veteran.

DAVID NOBLES, Grant Coordinator TVC, Fund for Veterans' Assistance David gave a power point presentation which covered the History, funding, purpose, solicitation, process, timeline and priorities. This was created by the TX Legislature in '05 and finally passed in '09 with the support of Senator Van de Putte and Rep. Chris Turner and many veterans. The funding comes from the sale of lottery tickets, State employee charitable campaign, generous donation and vehicle registration. The first lottery tickets

were sold in Dec. '09 and total funding as of Jan. '10 is \$2 million. The purpose is to enhance veterans' assistance programs which include veterans' representation and counseling. It addresses veteran's needs by providing emergency needs to veterans and their families thru mortgage , rent, medical bills, household bills, etc. A total of \$1 million may be awarded to one or more grantee/s. The individual submits a Letter of Interest which is graded/scored by the advisory committee which is then sent to the Commissioners who make the final decision. This usually takes 6-8 wks. Several priorities are considered: transportation, individual counseling for PTSD and TBI, employment training, education , housing assistance for homeless veterans, family and child services, non-criminal legal services, etc.

The website for many of these programs is:www.vetshirevets.gov

TEXAS COALITION OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS MEETING

John Miterko, Legislative Liaison presented for Key Veteran Bills passed in '09.

1. 100 % Property Tax Reduction for 100 % Disabled Veterans. This was signed by Gov. Perry on 19 June '09. However, this tax exemption does not pass to the family.
2. Scratch-off lottery ticket to benefit the fund for veterans.
3. Voluntary Contribution to benefit the Fund for Veteanas
4. Mental Health for Veterans
5. Military Absentee Voting by Electronic Means
6. Restore Agent Orange Presumptive Disease to "Blue Water" Navy veterans.

Proposed amendments to the above

1. Transferring the 100% property tax reduction for 100% disabled veterans to their widows and/or eligible dependent children. This will require a change in the TX Constitution.
2. Adjusting the dollar amt. that will be used to reduce the appraised value of the principal residence/homestead of a veteran disabled less than 100%. The current maximum amt. is \$12,000.
3. Re-introduction of legislation to recognize Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business as a category of small business with equal standing to State HUB (minority, women, etc) business enterprises. "Needed preferred wording."
4. Expand, streamline, and simplify the military voting bill process for military serving overseas, under seas, and on TDY in the Continental USA.

New Officers elected at this mtg

Pres: Little - USN
 Vice Pres: Jim Cunningham – MOAA/Alamo chapter
 Sec/Trea: Roy
 Legislative: John Miterko

TREASURERS REPORT – LOURAIN ROBERTSON

**TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS-MOAA
 FINANCIAL REPORT, 7 NOVEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2009**

Beginning balance, 7 November 2009	\$6,359.48
Income: Interest	<u>1.06</u> \$6,360.54
Expenses: Quarterly Meeting (Teleconference)	<u>142.54</u>
Ending balance, 31 December 2009	\$6,218.00
Balance in American Bank	\$6,218.00

Respectfully submitted,

(signed by)

Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS—2009 DUES PAID

TX 01 Abilene	31.60	TX 08 Highland Lakes	28.80
TX 16 Alamo	200.00	TX 24 Hill Country	46.80
TX 02 Austin	96.00	TX 11 Lone Star	91.60
TX 22 Central	18.40	TX 31 North DFW	43.20 *
TX 29 Del Rio/Ft. Clark	5.20	TX 23 Northeast	20.00
TX 04 East Texas	13.20	TX 30 Oilpatch	20.00
TX 05 El Paso	200.00	TX 19 Panhandle	21.20
TX 06 Ft. Wolters	6.00	TX 27 Rio Grande Valley	7.20
TX 03 Greater Dallas	136.80	TX 25 Rose Capital	46.80
TX 13 Greater Lubbock	31.60	TX 20 Wichita Falls	16.40
TX 07 Heart of TX	32.40		

Total Collected: \$ 1,113.20

*Collected in 2008

We did not hear from Golden Triangle. Brazos Valley has notified us that they are not going to join TCC.

**TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS-MOAA
FINANCIAL REPORT, 1 JANUARY – 8 FEBRUARY 2010**

Beginning balance, 1 January 2010			\$6,218.00
Income:	Interest	\$.53	
	2010 Dues	<u>\$574.40</u>	<u>574.93</u>
			\$6,792.93
Expenses:	Texas Coalition of Veterans (2010 Dues)		<u>50.00</u>
Ending balance, 8 February 2010			\$6,742.93
Balance in American Bank			\$6,742.93

Respectfully submitted,

(signed by)

Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS – 2010 DUES PAID

TX 16	Alamo	\$200.00
TX 22	Central Texas	21.20
TX 04	East Texas	12.80
TX 05	El Paso	200.00
TX 08	Highland Lakes	32.00
TX 24	Hill Country	47.60
TX 27	Rio Grande	12.00
TX 25	Rose Capital	<u>48.80</u>
	Total Collected	\$574.40

Chapter Reports

1. Chapter Name: **North DFW**

2. Chapter #: 31

3. Number of Chapter Members: 121

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?

Charles Correll, Chapter President

5. Significant Highlights

Successes: Held an Outstanding chapter meeting in December (Christmas Dance) generated a visible camaraderie, enthusiasm and communications level not seen in several years within the Chapter. For the third consecutive year, obtained 10 members under the "Give me Ten Program".

Challenges: Convert this new "togetherness" into action in the form of more and better action by general membership to further the aims of the Chapter and MOAA. More specifically become a better known entity within our operating area.

Future Initiatives: More involvement in veterans benefits programs and publicity of appropriate memorials in our area.

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives: We continue to maintain an active involvement in representing our combined MOAA/individual interest to our local and national government representatives. We strongly "push" the MOAA e mail to your Congressman program.

7. Other Significant Comments

Report submitted by: Charles Correll, Chapter President

1. Chapter Name: Alamo

2. Chapter #: 16

3. Number of Chapter Members: 1127

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?

- 1) David Patrick, TCC Secretary & Alamo Chapter Secretary
- 2) Jim Cunningham, TCC Past President & Alamo Chapter Exec VP
- 3) Ginny Alloway, TCC Past President, MOAA National Board Member, & Highland Lakes Chapter Past President
- 4) Ed Marvin, TCC Past President & Alamo Chapter President

5. Significant Highlights

Successes:

- 1) Awarded Five Star rating from MOAA National. This makes 4 Five Star awards and one Four Star award in the past 5 years.
- 2) Maintaining Membership – we continue to strive to maintain membership and consider it successful if we just maintain our membership as the years go on.
- 3) Had positive cash flow of \$1800 in CY 2009.
- 4) Buddy System recruiting initiated by the chapter is working well in recruiting for leadership positions. Turnover in the leadership continues however each leader works hard at finding alternates in our succession planning efforts.
- 5) Branding the chapter – have worked steadily to make the MOAA name better known and well respected in our community. Although cannot quantify it scientifically we feel intuitively our efforts are successful.
- 6) Expanded our scholarship program to this year offer 4 scholarships instead of three and increase the total amount from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

Challenges:

- 1) To continue to maintain and preferably expand the membership
- 2) To break even financially
- 3) To recruit volunteer leaders to run the chapter
- 4) To make the chapter better known in the community.
- 5) Expand and increase non-dues income. It is reasonably academic and practical to know that if the membership dues are challenged then we must take other measures to develop other sources for operating income if the chapter is to grow.

Future Initiatives:

1) Continuing to move our chapter into the 21st century with careful recognition continuing to be paid upon our veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the OEF and OIF. But we must take the chapter forward with utilization of electronics etc in the distribution of our monthly newsletter. Not only is that more cost effective but it is the way the young and active duty troops respond.

2) To continue to monitor our scholarship program and ensure we are able to pass out in awards the money which is donated on an annual basis.

3) We want to continue to do Buddy Recruiting

4) Have plans to establish a corporate sponsorship program to generate more non-dues income

6. Legislative Efforts

We want to continue to follow the lead of the national organization to use their prioritized efforts and do our best in keeping our local membership involved and conversant in this particular effort.

Current Initiatives: We have appointed a new VP Legislative Affairs who seems to be grabbing the mission with some interest.

Jim Cunningham performed brilliantly as the 2008-2009 TCC President and expanded state advocacy efforts to a new high. We are pleased that President Stone has initiated a bylaws effort to continue to use Jim's talents at the advocacy level

7. Other Significant Comments

Jim Cunningham successfully launched and is now Vice of the Texas Military Coalition. This is a major step forward for MOAA at the state and national level.

Report respectfully submitted by: Edward L. Marvin

Chapter: **Central Texas**

Chapter #: 22

Number of Members: Fifty-Three (53) (Dues Paid)

Significant Highlights

Successes: Central Texas Chapter of MOAA met in the months of October, and November. The Central Texas Chapter does not schedule meetings during the month of December. The Central Texas Chapter meets every 3rd Friday of each month at the Yank Sing Restaurant in Killeen, TX.

October Meeting: President Christ informed the Executive Board that the Memorial Project, (which consisted of an engraved granite stone bench) to be placed at the Central Texas Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen), is completed, and called for discussion and planning centering on the need to hold a dedication ceremony. Further planning discussion involved proper and fitting format for the ceremony, also, the feasibility and interest in having media coverage. Gene Wentworth, Chairman of the Memorial Project, was requested to coordinate with Veteran's Cemetery Officials, and seek final Texas Veteran's Land Board (TVLB) approval, in order for the chapter to move forward to allow more precise planning for conduct of a dedication ceremony. As noted in the 3rd Quarter Report, approval is being sought to place the memorial at the Flag Retirement Site Burn Pit, which is also the site of the Cemetery Flag.

The Executive Board also received a JROTC/ROTC Scholarship update briefing from First Vice President Jos Portmann, that the late summer initiative to put the chapter "more in touch" with the JROTC Program, resulted in five members who volunteered to participate in the "Chapter Liaison Officer" Program. Each Chapter Liaison Officer provides direct chapter support and advocacy to the JROTC Programs at each of the seven high schools in the greater Killeen area. Two additional Chapter Liaison Officers volunteers, are still needed.

Introduced by First Vice President Jos Portmann, State Representative Ralph Sheffield, of the Texas State House of Representatives, appeared as the guest speaker during the October meeting, and stated that he was first elected to the House of Representatives and represents District 55, which encompasses the majority of Bell County. Rep. Sheffield also serves on three committees: Corrections, County Affairs and Rules & Regulations. He noted that he is also a member of AUSA. One of the most significant achievements claimed by Rep Sheffield was that through a team effort with Rep Jimmie Don Aycock, they were able to ensure that Texas A&M became a reality, and further added that it will now be much easier for returning soldiers and spouses to obtain a higher education.

November Meeting: Gene Wentworth, Chairman of the Memorial Project, presented an update to the Executive Board & general membership on the progress of the on-going CenTex Chapter MOAA Memorial Project. The Chapter has been working towards placement of proposed MOAA memorial bench in the vicinity of the Cemetery Flag Pole of the Central Texas Veteran's Cemetery, and noted that the project has moved forward. Also, once the

memorial project is in place, MOAA and the Central Texas Chapter will enjoy permanent and proud representation at the Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen.

Wentworth outlined plans to reach final completion of installation of the engraved MOAA Memorial Bench in the Cemetery, and led discussion in which he expressed the hope that the Chapter could hold a dedication ceremony, possibly during the month of December.

Scholarship JROTC/ROTC Program. Chapter Liaison Officer Mike McDonnell, assigned to assist Military Instructors at Copperas Cove High School) briefed the Executive Board following personal contact with the Senior Military Instructor and others at Copperas Cove High School. McDonnell reported that his visit was welcomed as an "advocate" for the Chapter, and he expects to become more involved in working to move the Scholarship process forward, as ROTC Scholarship Candidates are identified.

Elections. Pursuant to requirements, President Christ requested the Nominations Committee Chairman to provide a report on nominations for the year 2010. Following a motion that the slate of Officers presented by the Nominations Committee be approved by affirmation, the motion was seconded. President Christ called for a vote by the membership of accepting the nominations of Officers. The membership vote was unanimous, and the Central Texas Chapter Officers and Board of Directors Election process for the year 2010, concluded.

Guest speaker for the November meeting was Richard Skopik, P.E. District Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) in the Waco District. During the introduction of Mr. Skopik, President Christ expressed his belief that there is no more of an important topic or infrastructure item in this community than our roads, and our transportation capabilities particularly, in and around the Ft. Hood military installation area. Therefore, Mr. Skopik was requested to address the chapter membership. Mr. Skopik emphasized that road work on Highway 190 and other roadways in the vicinity of the Main Gate is very critical to Ft. Hood, and receives special priority. Further Mr. Skopik explained that TXDOT works very closely with the Ft. Hood Garrison Commander in planning and construction of road projects in the Ft. Hood area.

December Meeting: No meeting was scheduled during month of December.

Successes continued: During this Fourth Quarter period, significant accomplishments were achieved in three specific areas. At President Christ's direction, the CenTex Chapter advanced the Scholarship Program, instituted the JROTC Chapter Liaison Officer Program to allow the Chapter to provide direct advocacy and individual support to JROTC students and instructors at each of the seven high schools affiliated with the Chapter. The Chapter continues to

seek 2 additional volunteers for Chapter Liaison Officers, and the advocacy work with the high schools has begun.

The on-going Memorial Project, a granite stone memorial style bench, with approved MOAA inscription has been approved, constructed and installed in the Veteran's Cemetery near the cemetery flag pole. Presently, plans to conduct an appropriate and fitting Memorial Dedication Ceremony during the first months of 2010, nears completion.

Paid up chapter membership increased from 52 to 53 during this quarterly period.

Challenges: With completion of the Central Texas Chapter Memorial Bench, fundraising continues to allow the Chapter to move forward to a second and future memorial project, although a specific memorial project has yet to be formulated.

Continuing to implement the newly formed JROTC Chapter Liaison Officer Program to provide direct support to advancement of the JROTC Scholarship Program.

Expansion of recruitment efforts to meet a year end goal of reaching at least 60 paid up chapter members.

Future Initiatives: Intensify chapter membership recruitment. Closer liaison and more direct involvement with JROTC Candidates and Military Instructors. Utilize Chapter Liaison Officers to more closely monitor and assist in the scholarship selection process. Move forward with fundraising and planning for a future Central Texas Chapter Memorial Project.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

House District 54--Representative Jimmie Don Aycock

House District 55--Representative Ralph Sheffield

House District 52--Representative Diana Maldonado

House District 50--Representative Mark Strama

Senate District 24--Senator Troy Fraser

Also, Jim Endicott, the recently appointed Chairman of Legislative Affairs, regularly visits the State Legislature and compiles the latest significant information on veterans and military related bills. Chairman Endicott provides a verbal briefing and update each month, to the Executive Board and Chapter Membership, regarding the most recent veterans and military related legislative developments.

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: Chapter members regularly receive legislative updates as they become available, via e-mail, concerning pending and passed bills that affect veterans and military personnel. Chapter members are continuously urged to e-mail their respective representatives.

What postcards and letters are you sending: - None.

Report submitted by:

*Billy Hengler
Secretary*

1. **Chapter Name:** **The Lone Star**

2. **Chapter #:** TX-11

3. **Number of Chapter Members:** 279

4. **Who will be attending:** Colonel Charles W.B. (Barry) Morrison

5. **Significant Highlights**

a. Successes:

1. **Awards:** Lone Star Officers' Club received the "5 Star Level of Excellence" Award for exceptional performance at the National MOAA meeting in San Diego, 24-25 October 2009.

2. **Programs:** October – "Passing the hat" Fall collections for our Scholarship Fund exceeded \$900.00. This was our Oktoberfest Celebration evening with German bratwurst and potato salad, mugs of beer, and guest singer, Debi Carl, with Oktoberfest-appropriate music.

November - This was our General Meeting month including the election of officers. Our guest speaker, Dr Jim Messinger (CAPT USA Ret.) from Weatherford College, gave a very informative presentation on the status of The National Vietnam War Memorial in Mineral Wells, Texas

December – Our annual Christmas Dinner/Dance was held at Ridglea Country Club, Fort Worth, Texas. The dress was Military

Formal (or coat and tie). Once again, the Buzz Murphy Orchestra played for the party. Installation of the new board of officers was conducted.

b. Challenges: Recruiting officers to take position of President and First Vice President.

c. Future Initiatives: In the planning stages.

6. Legislative Efforts: In the planning stages.

Names of congressional reps you are covering: **Senators:** Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn. **Representatives:** Kay Granger, Michael Burgess, Ralph Hall, Joe Barton, Ken Marchant

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: E-mails are generally sent to chapter officers and chairs for action.

What postcards and letters are you sending:

Each month we send 100 – 120 postcards to both our Representative and Senators regarding target issues important to retirees and active duty personnel.

7. Other Significant Comments: Chapter Officers/Chairs are in continuous contact with Congressional/State/Local officials and their respective offices by written/Email/telephonic communications regarding pertinent legislative matters and initiatives/efforts related to them in Town Hall Meetings. The Legislative Chair has also attended and participated in Town Hall Meetings.

Report submitted by: Charles W.B. (Barry) Morrison, Colonel USAF MSC Ret.

1. Chapter Name: Highland Lakes

2. Chapter #: TX 08

3. Number of Chapter Members: Membership drive underway

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?
Robert Roland & Ruth Roland

5. Significant Highlights

Successes:

Chapter continues to be viable

Challenges:

To remain Viable

Future Initiatives:

To be decided

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives:

7. Other Significant Comments

Report submitted by:

Robert M. Roland
CWO USA (Ret)

1. **Chapter Name: EAST TEXAS**

2. **Chapter #: TX04**

3. **Number of Chapter Members: 54**

4. **Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?**

President : Wayne Keen
Sec/Trea: Loran Rhine

5. Significant Highlights

Successes: Benefit Golf Tournament Raised \$2,800 for Veterans' Museum.
SHSU ROTC Scholarship
Acceptance into Wounded Warrior program working With SHSU ROTC
Three new members within last 3 months
Supported Wounded Warrior benefit dinner through donations and attendance.

Challenges: Increasing Membership
Increased Community Involvement in Benefits

Future Initiatives: See included letter to TX-04 members.

6. Legislative Efforts: Letters to Legislators
Personal contacts with legislators if possible

Current Initiatives: Wounded Warrior
Increasing relations and programs with the local ROTC unit at Sam Houston State University (SHSU).

7. Other Significant Comments: In an effort to affiliate and coordinate our organization with the local College ROTC unit, President Keen and Secretary Treasurer Rhine will attend a Luncheon in Honor of General Petraeus with LTC David Yebra, Professor of Military Science at Sam Houston State University, and some of his Cadets on February 5th, in Houston, Texas.

Report submitted by:
Wayne Keen and Loran Rhine



Dear MOAA members,

2010 is shaping up to be an astounding year for our Organization. Just think, Elkins Lake is in the process of building a new and wonderful Club House. As your new President, I am hoping that we can increase our support and enthusiasm for our local Chapter of our MOAA group. It is therefore that I am proposing the following:

- 1. Starting in March a once a month “get together” for dinner and social interaction.*
- 2. We hope, during most of the year, to dine in our old club house and eventually dine in our new club house as it becomes available.*
- 3. Margarita’s and Panorama are still on schedule during those months that we do those events.*
- 4. Each and every military member who volunteers will have an opportunity, during that month, to host the dinner and give us a “background” of their career and life accomplishments. We will need names of those willing to address our group ahead of time so we can plan accordingly. The first event will be hosted by me, Wayne Keen, your President to kick it off.*
- 5. We will additionally use these occasions to “update” the group on our community and National interests and involvements.*
- 6. We hope to increase local and regional participation in our group.*
- 7. We are attempting to work locally with the Sam Houston ROTC unit and have them provide a Cadet to speak, in addition to our own member, to our group.*

This will give a Cadet an opportunity to increase his leadership and communication skills and be the Topic of his or her choice.

8. *We hope through these dinners and golf benefits to increase the size of our budget.*
9. *As the East Texas Chapter, we are going to host a golf benefit later in the year to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Charity and the HEARTS Museum. We have already been approved by Wounded Warrior and hope to get some press from the event.*

Remember fellow military members, this is your organization to promote and foster fraternal relations among retired, active duty, reserve components and former officers of America's uniform services.

It is my hope as your new President to raise the bar and give new enthusiasm and life to our group. I need your help and participation to achieve our goals. Any ideas or promotions that you might have are encouraged but must be in writing to help identify and file for future reference.

Thank you for your participation of our Honorable group and please attempt to make yourself available for as many functions as you can make.

Request: Please provide an updated address or e-mail so we can keep our costs down. We promise not to sell or distribute your e-mail addresses. With the sincerest and warmest regards for the new year and God bless.

*Wayne Keen
President East Texas Chapter MOAA*

1. Chapter Name: **Wichita Falls**

2. Chapter #: 20

3. Number of Chapter Members: 50 ±

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?

LTC and Mrs. Cleve Pratt, Past President

5. Significant Highlights

Successes: We continue to get good participation at our meetings. Our finances have improved dramatically which has allowed us to give speaker gifts and/or honorariums at our meetings. We are also seeking to improve the quality of our Officership Excellence Award given to a deserving officer at the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program at Sheppard AFB.

Challenges: We would like to see membership attendance at our meetings increase. We continue to look for ways to get more participation. We continue to emphasize the importance of, and the need for, more work by the various functional committees.

Future Initiatives: We are currently discussing alternatives with ENJJPT staff to increase our participation and interaction with the student pilots. We also will participate in the Veteran's Fairs sponsored by the Wichita County Veteran's Service Office. This will be held February 20 in Wichita Falls.

We would like to participate in MOAA's Gold Bar Program. We have a small Air Force ROTC Detachment at Midwestern State University with which we need to coordinate and explore the possibilities.

We are discussing options and planning for another large event honoring wounded warriors for sometime later this year. Our goal is to sponsor one major event each year to maintain visibility in the community.

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives: Since the legislature is not in session currently we have continued to work locally with Rep. David Farabee and Senator Craig Estes offices. We have also emphasized the Give Me 10 membership drive at our meetings.

7. Other Significant Comments None

Report submitted by: LTC Larry Petrash, USA (Ret)
Chapter President

1. **Chapter Name:** Golden Triangle

2. **Chapter #:** 26

3. **Number of Chapter Members:** 49 on the rolls / approximately 28 active

4. **Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?**

- Marvin & Molly Benoit
- Marvin Benoit, LTC, USAR, Ret is the new President

5. **Significant Highlights**

Successes: The chapter has been able to continue after the loss of their president CAPT David Walston. This was a huge impact as other tried to pick up and continue.

Challenges: Aging membership with many members at an age that illness and weather hinders their ability to get out of their homes and join us for monthly meetings. We have lost many members this past year which is difficult to address during monthly meetings. Value added monthly guest speakers.

Future Initiatives: Recruitment of new members. Research “Give Me 10” program. Secure membership brochures at Texas Council 1st Qtr meeting. Right size membership roster. Increase participation.

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives: Texas Army National Guard relocating local units to Houston leaving four empty Armories in the Golden Triangle. This will limit local participation of junior enlisted in the Guard due to travel.

7. Other Significant Comments: New President has much to learn.

Report submitted by: Marvin Benoit

1. Chapter Name: **The Texas Hill Country**

2. Chapter #: **TX24**

3. Number of Chapter Members: **119**

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?

Nobody

5. Significant Highlights

Successes:

Challenges:

Future Initiatives:

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives:

7. Other Significant Comments

Report submitted by: Dan A. Johnson, Secretary

1. Chapter Name: Heart of Texas

2. Chapter #: 7

3. Number of Chapter Members: 96

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?

Vince Tobola, Treasurer and possibly, Jon Ker, President

5. Significant Highlights

Successes: Presented four awards totaling \$2,000 to four Baylor ROTC cadets for achievements during summer field training.

Challenges: Continuing to recruit new members and to involve more different members in officer and director duties. Raising funds for scholarship program. Keeping monthly dinner meetings interesting with speakers or entertainment to keep members involved in the chapter

Future Initiatives: Starting our annual fund raiser April golf scramble; attracting golf participants, donors, and hole sponsors. Planning awards for the six local JRROTC units where top performer gets \$150 savings bond and MOAA medal, ribbon, and certificate. Also, planning cash award to top sophomore Baylor ROTC cadet and MOAA medal, ribbon and certificate to top junior Baylor ROTC cadet. Working to recruit more members for MOAA under the current program as well as chapter membership.

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives: Advising members of upcoming primary election and November election and sending out legislative updates to members in the newsletters and special e-mails.

7. Other Significant Comments Looking for feedback on new fund raising activities that have been successful for other chapters.

Report submitted by: Vince Tobola, Treasurer

1. **Chapter Name:** **MOAA Greater Dallas**

2. **Chapter #:**

3. **Number of Chapter Members:** 315 (235 retired military, 80 auxiliary)

4. **Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?**

Martha Mareth, President

Dave Schafer, President Elect

5. **Significant Highlights**

Successes: -successful Luncheon Meeting at the elite Park City Club every other month
-scholarships to Jr ROTC
-costs cut by switching to electronic monthly Newsletters
-telephoned members to remind them to renew memberships

Challenges: -dwindling membership
-low turnout for Greeting the Troops- we are going from greeting troops on 4th Tues to a day of member's choice

Future Initiatives: -joint Christmas Parties with other military organizations
-Gold Bar Program

5. **Legislative Efforts**

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

LTC Ed Tatge, USA Ret, each year arranges for teams, composed of three or four members of the Chapter to visit the offices of one U.S. Senator and each of the eight Congressional Representatives in which members of the Chapter reside in order to urge backing for MOAA legislative goals. Offices visited in 2009 included the offices of U.S. Senator John Cornyn, Rep. Sam Johnson (3rd), Rep. Ralph Hall (4th), Rep. Jeb Hensarling (5th), Rep. Joe Barton (6th), Rep. Kenny Marchant (24th), Rep. (Dr.) Michael Burgess (26th), Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (30th), and Rep. Pete Sessions (32nd). U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutcherson does not maintain a Dallas area office which handles armed forces related legislative matters. Importantly, representatives of the Chapter also talk by telephone with the legislative assistants of each of these members of Congress concerning MOAA legislative goals. Where practical the Chapter has included

with its team, members of other veterans organizations interested in the same legislative goals.

The Chapter is currently developing a similar system for visits to offices of members of the Texas Legislature in which Chapter members reside so that when TCC announces Texas legislative goals, such visits can promptly begin.

The Chapter includes in its Membership Directory a list of the above listed members of Congress together with their local and Washington, DC, addresses and telephone numbers, together with a summary of the number of Chapter members and their spouses who reside in each such Congressional District. The Congressional District in which each Chapter member resides is indicated in the Directory opposite such person's name. For the first time, the Chapter's 2010 Membership Directory will also include similar information about members of the Texas Legislature in whose districts Chapter members reside.

How is your Chapter doing on email alerts:

COL Paul Koeltzow, USAF Ret, sends email alerts to Chapter members approximately two or three times per month on Congressional Legislative topics requested by MOAA, and at irregular intervals on Texas Legislative topics requested by TCC. COL Koeltzow also provides these email alerts to TCC for distribution to TCC Chapters and to the Dallas 5-Service Academy Networking Group (the "Networking Group") for distribution to its members.

What postcards and letters are you sending:

LTC Leonard Miller, USA Ret, in consultation with MOAA prepares postcards for signature by Chapter members attending the five regular membership meetings held during each year. The cards are picked up at the end of the meeting and mailed by the Chapter. The Chapter also makes a special effort to encourage members to sign and mail postcards which from time to time are included by MOAA in the Military Officer.

Legislative Updates

COL David Briggs, AUS Ret, prepares monthly legislative updates for publication in the Chapter's monthly newsletter so as to keep Chapter members informed about legislative developments. Such Updates are also sent to TCC for distribution to TCC Chapters for whatever use such Chapters wish to make of them. A version of the Update is also sent to the Networking Group for distribution to its members.

submitted by: Martha M. Mareth

1. Chapter Name: El Paso

2. Chapter #: TX 05

3. Number of Chapter Members: 622

Paid. Honorary, Courtesy – 436
Special Electronic GMT -- 186

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter?

LTC William (Bill) Moore – Advertising Manager / Newsletter Editor

5. Significant Highlights

Successes:

- Launched new website on 13 December.
- We continue to take advantage of personalized email blasts to update our membership.
- Received our 8th consecutive Five Star Excellence Award.
- Transferred Chapter leadership to COL Forrest Smith, Cof S, Joint Task Force North.

Challenges:

- Maintain 'Five-Star' membership status
- Become a recognizable organization within the Fort Bliss / El Paso community
- Recruit corporate sponsors for the chapter
- Seek and procure support for MOAA national too assume online credit card processing for membership activities for all chapters.

Future Initiatives:

- Grow the chapter membership.
- Take advantage electronic financial transactions, i.e., online credit card processing, for membership applications, events, and donations.
- The El Paso Chapter MOAA will utilize a recruiting strategy that will capitalize on our successful support to ROTC and Junior ROTC programs, while reaching out to deployed and redeploying units/soldiers.
- El Paso MOAA can set the conditions over the coming quarter to embrace these challenges and to take advantage of the evolving opportunities and truly establish MOAA as an influential community partner in supporting the growing active duty and retiree military community. Additionally, the El Paso Chapter will continue to reach out and establish community support initiatives as well as partnerships with local Veteran's organizations, and El Paso volunteer organizations to continue to support the El Paso community.

- Our Chapter will take an active role in welcoming returning deployed heroes and reaching out to soldiers and soldiers' family members. When our heroes return, the El Paso MOAA will be there to welcome them back.
- Recruit additional chapter sponsors for the newsletter form within the El Paso Community.

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives:

Through the El Paso Military Coalition, in which the MOAA chapter participates, we reach Senators Cornyn and Hutchison and Reps Reyes and Ciro Rodriguez. LTC John McKinney, USA, RET, our Legislative Director, has direct contact with both Reps via other channels also and sometimes is in contact almost daily. In 2009 the Military Coalition, in which MOAA is represented, letters seeking co-sponsorship for congressional legislation addressed 134 House bills and 57 senate bills. Our continuing efforts include monthly Coalition meetings plus the resumption of Congressman Reyes' Veterans Citizens Advisory Panel. MOAA was represented in the Oct '09 congressman's Veterans Town Hall.

7. Other Significant Comments

- The chapter has established a semi-permanent operation in Building 452, Fort Bliss. Aside from using the facility for monthly board meetings it is used for weekly brainstorming and milestone update meetings.

Report submitted by: Forrest Smith, COL, USA, President.

1. Chapter Name: **Rio Grande Valley**

2. Chapter #: 27

3. Number of Chapter Members: 43 (active)

4. Who Will Be Attending This Meeting in Tyler From Your Chapter? None

5. Significant Highlights

Successes: Met for Christmas Dinner Meeting

Challenges: Continue the existence of the RGV Chapter

Future Initiatives: Quarterly Meetings for Active members

6. Legislative Efforts

Current Initiatives: N/A

7. Other Significant Comments

David Freeth (dfreeth@earthlink.net) has been elected as the MOAA Chapter President by the as we our chapter grapples with trying to meet quarterly. There have been problems with finding a place a meet and I have been traveling/working that has kept me from attending to the MOAA chapter business.

Report submitted by: David P. Freeth, CAPT, USPHS, ret, RGV MOAA Chapter

1. Chapter Name : **Rose Capital**

2. Chapter Number : TX -25

3. Number of Chapter Members : 113

4. Who will be attending this meeting in Tyler from your chapter?

President – Jim Snow LTC USA Retired

First Vice President – Terry Howlett Lt.Col. USAF Retired

Personal Affairs Officer & Director – Beverly Knaus Capt. USA Former

6. Significant Highlights:

Successes

--- Increasing involvement of members of the chapter – better attendance at scheduled programs and activities.

--- Continue to improve chapter involvement with community and civic leaders by serving on various committees within the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce.

--- Recently participated in the Business Expo sponsored by the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. It was a great opportunity to give exposure to the Rose Capital Chapter of the MOAA

---- Participated in the Jobs Fair for Veterans at the Tyler Area Workforce location in Tyler in mid November, 2009.

---- Better attendance at the Board of Officers monthly meetings for planning and promotion of the Chapter. This is a result of formation of a Board of Directors last fall.

Challenges :

---- To strengthen and build on the Chapter's recruiting program.

---- Retention of the Auxiliary Members as members of the Chapter.

--- Establishment of a "Sunshine Program" to meet the needs of the older and frail members of the Chapter – be knowledgeable of their needs with this communication tool. This may help in the retention of those Auxiliary as members.

--- To establish a Buddy program to help meet the needs of the older members with their mobility problems(to be able to get to the various activities)

--- To strengthen and increase the number of volunteers in support of the Chapter. This is an ongoing issue.

--- To identify various fund raising possibilities and opportunities to increase our Chapter revenue.

--- To implement the use of the electronic mail for the membership to receive their program reservations, newsletters and all info that is sent by U.S. mail.

---- To continue support of various military community projects.

Future Initiatives :

----- Strengthen our recruiting and retention initiatives within the Chapter.

--- Continue to work on revision of the Chapter Newsletter to increase its productivity to the membership.

---- Pursue advertising possibilities as a way of providing some additional revenue for the Chapter.

---- Continued development and implementation of the "Chapter Strategic Plan ".

---- Continue to work on the development of a communication plan to be more in touch with those in the chapter that are unable to participate in Chapter activities .These being the "Sunshine Program" and "Buddy System".

---- Continued development of the use of the electronic mail as a means of notifying the membership of the activities of the chapter and the newsletter (increase the number of issues of it by this action.).

6. Legislative Efforts:

----- Promote the members to contact their Congressmen about various issues that are under consideration and keep membership attuned to MOAA 's efforts with these issues.

----- Attend various community meetings that discuss various issues at the local and national level.

7. Other Significant Comments:

We express congratulations to all newly elected officers of the Texas Council of Chapters.

We will continue to retain a membership, be involved and support the activities and mission of the TCC. Please do not hesitate to call on the Chapter to be of assistance in your efforts to promote the MOAA as “One Powerful Voice”.

Shirley Lindsay,
Secretary , Rose Capital Chapter
Military Officers Association of America.

Chapter: Austin

Chapter #: 16

Number of Members: 260

Attending will be Col. Wes Lokken USMC (Ret); Chapter President

Significant Highlights

Successes: Broaden participation in the Austin Military Coalition (Local Veterans Programs) ; continuing to broaden scope of member involvement in chapter program activities and community wide veterans programs; Broadened and enhanced participation in the “Gold Bar” Program; added to communication to participating JR ROTC programs.

Challenges: Review of chapter by-laws (on hold); Communicating with local non-chapter members who are National members.

Future Initiatives: Development of enhanced co-operation, communication with Service related organizations with the community (currently underway); possible participation in the program for the Moving Vietnam Wall Memorial on its 5 day stay in the local area..

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering: Cornyn, Huthchison, Doggett, and McCaul.

How is your chapter doing on e-mail alerts: The chapter is working on enhancement/coordination of a viable system thru the Service Representatives. As some members do not have that capability, other direct contact activities are being conducted.

What postcards and letters are you sending: As a chapter, we have not been sending cards/letters, however, we remind members at meetings of current issues, and to communicate with their senators and representatives.

Report submitted by Wes Lokken