

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009 Officer and Chapter Reports to Texas Council of Chapters**

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### **Officer Reports**

#### **Presidents Report for State Issues and Storming the Hill**

As you all know, I have been extremely busy here of late working with our state legislators in an effort to get many bills relative to the well being of our membership and the military passed through this session of the Texas Legislature. In addition to that, I have just returned from a week in Washington, D.C. working with MOAA National and our Federal Representatives and Senators relative to four issues that MOAA is working on this year.

Let me first address some issues at the Texas State House. One key bill has passed and is on the Governors desk, while others of great importance are almost there.

**SB90 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children – This bill has passed and is on the Governors desk to be signed.**

**SB93 Relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents – This bill has passed the Senate and is out of committee in the House. It should be voted on shortly and will go to the Governor. It enhances the Hazelwood Act to allow spouses of military members to use the Hazelwood.**

#### **Property Tax bills:**

**Tax relief for disabled veterans (Enabling legislation for Proposition 9)**

**1. SB 469 & HB 742: 100% Property tax reduction for 100% disabled veterans:**

- **SB 469: Carona et al: Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans and to amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled based on disability rating.**

**Estimated 2-year impact to General Revenue funds: negative impact of \$11,421,000 thru biennium ending 8/31//2011. 4/22/09: SB 469 was passed by the Senate; 4/23/09: House received the bill and was read for the first time. 4/30/09: referred to House Ways & Means Committee. 5/7/09 Passed out of Ways and Means to the Calendars Committee.**

- **HB 742: Kuempel: companion bill to SB 469. Identical. Status: 4/2/09: considered in public hearing; committee substitute considered; reported favorably as substituted; 4/15/2009, voted out of House Ways & Means Committee; In Calendars Committee.**

**Summary: HB 742 is in the Calendars Committee waiting to go to the House General Calendar along with SB469 to be debated and voted on. The next move is that we need to call Representative McCall, the Chair of the Calendars Committee and ask him to schedule a vote in the House ASAP. He can be reached at (512) 463-0594. Also, it wouldn't hurt to call the Speaker and ask for his support in getting this scheduled for a vote. Speaker Straus can be reached on (512) 463-0686.**

## **2. HB 1299 & SB 421: Lottery Ticket to Benefit Veterans**

- **HB1299: As Introduced: The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill. 4/7/09: Committee report filed with Committee Coordinator, report printed and distributed. 4/8/09: Committee Report sent to Calendars. 5/8/2009 Passed out of Calendars to the General House Calendar for debate and a vote.**
- **SB 421 Action: a discussion will be held with the authors of SB 421 to determine the best course of action to pursue to ensure optimum support for progress of the bill in the Texas Senate.**
- **Summary: A press conference on 4 May 09 sponsored by Senator Van de Putte and Rep Chris Turner will be held to discuss the scratch-off lottery ticket and to garner public support for the bill. SB421 is presently being held up in the State Affairs Committee by the Chair Sen. Duncan. Senator Duncan can be reached on (512) 463-0128. Sen. Duncan, who is opposed to SB421 and has held it in his Committee since February, has indicated that he would consider releasing SB421 from his Committee to the Senate should HB1299 be passed by the House. Please call your local State House Representative and ask them to support HB1299 when it comes to**

the floor for debate and a vote. We only have three more weeks until the Legislature is scheduled for adjournment.

**HB 2689 & SB 2403: making a voluntary contribution to the fund for veterans' assistance when registering a motor vehicle:**

- **HB 2689: 4/1/09: considered in Defense Affairs Committee public hearing; committee substitute considered; left pending in Committee.**
- **SB 2403: 3/31/09: referred to Senate Finance Committee**
- **SB 1940: Van de Putte: relating to gifts received for the Fund for Veterans, or voluntary contributions to the Fund by State Employees. 4/16/09: favorably voted out of the Veterans Affairs Committee; Senate vote recorded and engrossed; bill sent to House; received from Senate. 4/21/09: read first time and referred to House Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee**

**3. HB 71, HB 551 & SB 92: Relating to the establishment of a program to provide a ballot by electronic mail to military personnel serving overseas.**

**Summary: progress is being made in both the House and Senate. As of 4/4/09 no action is required or requested from the Texas Coalition of Veteran Organizations or the TCC.**

- **HB 71 Status: 3/11/09: testimony taken in Defense & Veteran Affairs Committee; left pending in committee. 3/23/09: Committee report sent to Calendars. 3/30/09: placed on General State Calendar; read 2<sup>nd</sup> time; passed to engrossment; 3/31/09: read 3<sup>rd</sup> time; amended; passed as amended; record vote; vote engrossed; 4/1/09: Out of Committee; sent from House to Senate; received from House. 4/7/09: Senate: read first time and referred to State Affairs Committee. 5/7/09 Reported out of Committee favorably and sent to Calendar for consideration.**
- **SB 92: Van de Putte: companion bill to HB 71 with similar wording. Status: 3/9/09: public testimony taken; bill left pending in committee. 3/23/09: considered in public hearing; report**

favorably submitted as substituted; recommended for local and uncontested calendar; 3/26/09: out of Committee. 3/30: to Senate Bills Calendar Order as Committee Substitute and recommended for local calendar; scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

- **HB 551: Relating to the electronic transmission of a federal postcard application used for voting. 3/26/09: House Elections Committee reported favorably without amendments; report printed and distributed; 3/27/09: sent to Local & Consent Calendar; 3/31/09 read 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time; passed; vote recorded and engrossed; 4/1/09: Senate: report received from House. 4/27/2009 Referred to State Affairs Committee and still in Committee.**

I spent last week in Washington, D.C., along with LtCol Virginia Alloway and CAPT Mark Seglem both Board Members for Texas, forming three teams to lobby for MOAA initiatives before all of the Texas Federal Representatives and Senators. MOAA National is pushing for four things this year before the Congress and it appears that the climate is right to probably get them to the point that they can be achieved!

First and foremost is to bar any disproportional increase in fees for Tricare. MOAA presented very well documented evidence that increases in fees for Tricare were really unjustified and what impressed many Representatives was that MOAA showed ways that DoD could more than make up any fee increases requested by simply implementing some common sense policies. We shall see what happens, but the general consensus is that nothing will happen this year, in particular where Tricare for Life is concerned.

The second issue was that of Sustaining the Defense Budget to fund both People and Weapons. It is recommended that a base of 4% of GDP be dedicated to the DoD that would not have to be renewed each fiscal year. In addition, MOAA is recommending that the Congress support the Presidents proposed budget and give a 3.4% pay increase instead of the proposed 2.9% to the military.

The third issue was to get rid of the "Veteran's Tax" Concurrent Receipt. Veterans should be fully vested and all earning exempted. In addition, there should be no difference between a combat vs. non-combat disability. We need to support HB333 and HR 303 as well as S546 for this issue.

The fourth issue is that of SBP-DIC offset. Support for HR775 and S535 should be given.

For more details on these issues, please look at them on the MOAA.org website.

MOAA National is asking the Texas Council to work with each Chapter to identify a Federal Legislative liaison for each of the Representatives from our respective areas. This person or persons would represent MOAA and their local Chapter to the Representative to make them aware of issues that we need action on at the Federal level. Once identified for each legislator, MOAA National would work directly with that individual or individuals anytime they needed extra emphasis made to the Representative for some issue. They would count on this legislative liaison to carry through with this and not only give the Representative our position, but also give feedback to National as to how the Representative might be leaning on various issues. I would ask each of our Chapters to try and identify such a resource within your Chapter for each Representative in your area and let me know who that is so that work with them and get them in touch with the appropriate people at National MOAA.

Sincerely,

Major James Cunningham  
President  
Texas Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America

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Report of TCC Vice President—Legislative  
2 May 2009

I would like to commend the Chapters on their legislative activities included in their Chapter reports to TCC. This information is most helpful in determining which areas of our legislative effort are most successful. Particularly praiseworthy is the strong participation across the board in the Email legislative alert system. This is a key part of our “grass roots” efforts.

Those Chapters who have not yet scheduled visits with the local offices of their U.S. Congressional legislators, in whose districts their members are located, are encouraged to do so. This, likewise, is a key part

of our efforts to support MOAA's national legislative goals. With a new Administration in power, it is particularly important that MOAA be strongly heard from early in the Administration. All Chapters have been emailed a suggested Congressional presentation of MOAA's requested issues.

As a second priority all chapters are also encouraged to visit their local Texas legislators' offices so that the local offices as well as the Austin offices get to know you.

In addition, for those Chapters who are interested, sending postcards from your membership meetings is a good way to supplement your Emails. Any Chapter who wishes assistance in setting up a regular postcard program, please telephone or email me.

Lastly, Chapters are encouraged to set up a Legislative Affairs Committee, as a fully active legislative program takes more than one person to run effectively. As an example, in the Greater Dallas Chapter, what works well for us is the following:

Committee Chairman, who is the VP—Legislative  
Email committee member, who sends out Email Legislative Alerts  
Congressional Visit committee member, who organizes meetings with local Congressional offices.

Postcard committee member, who prepares postcards for each membership meeting and mails cards after obtaining signatures

We are considering an additional member to coordinate visits with Texas legislators' local offices.

The interesting thing we have discovered is that Chapter members who are not interested in serving as Chapter officers are happy to serve on the Legislative Committee, apparently, because the lesser scope of responsibility fits their needs better and they perceive a real benefit to the military community from their work and a sense of accomplishment in doing it.

Dave Briggs, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Legislative

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**TCC AUXILIARY QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**May 2, 2009**

The House of Representatives has approved HR bill 1804 which will increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) that all DIC recipients should now be getting. In October, the 2009 allowance would

rise to \$95 and rise yearly until in fiscal year 2014 it would be \$330 (not \$100). The time period would then be extended to the year 2016 when the monthly amount would be \$345. The e-mail did not say when this SSIA would come to an end. I assume it's 2016.

Many survivors are still angry at Congress for not ending this offset. They are likewise angry at MOAA for not conveying this strongly enough.

MOAA's answer to this is "It's better to work Congressmen a little bit at a time, to gain leverage. To demand the ultimate you want, all too often gets you nothing. And, Congressmen will remember the tone of that demand". This incremental approach often leads to success. Already Congressmen are thinking that the offset is wrong. The seed has been planted. The floor dollar amount to work on has been set. MOAA will continue working on this. This is Col. Strobridge's thinking.

Remember, this is only a bill in the House now. Please contact your Representatives and Senators to include this in funding law.

The Auxiliary Advisory Committee urges all survivors to go to MOAA's home page and read what the Committee says.

Alice Karr,  
TCC Liaison to MOAA

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## Chapter Reports

Chapter: **East Texas**

Chapter #: TX04

Number of Members: 30

### Significant Highlights

#### Successes:

1. Coordinated the Gold Bar program with Sam Houston State University R.O.T.C Department.
2. Arranging with the *Veteran's Heart Museum* to have an East Texas Chapter MOAA display for advertisement/recruitment purposes.
3. Increased community awareness by using the local newspaper to announce our meeting dates and place.

**Challenges:**

1. Recruiting new members and getting previous members to return to being active members.
2. Increasing support for legislative issues of interest to MOAA.

**Future Initiatives:**

1. Establish a U.S. Flag disposal drop box to increase community awareness
2. Coordinate and support the *Rebuilding Together* program

**Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps we are covering:**

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Senator Steve, Ogden   | District 5   |
| 2. Rep. Jim McReynods     | District 12  |
| 3. Rep. Lois Kolkhorst    | District 13  |
| 4. Rep. Ron Eissler       | District 15  |
| 5. Rep. Brandon Creighton | District 16  |
| 6. John Otto              | District 18. |

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:**

12 e-mails were sent this quarter

**What postcards and letters are you sending:**

6 letters on national issues were sent this quarter

*Report submitted by: Jerry E Jackson, President East Tx. Chap.*

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**Chapter: North DFW**

**Chapter #: 31**

**Number of Members: 116**

**Significant Highlights**

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**Successes:** Regularly (2<sup>nd</sup> Tue each month) greeting returning troops at DFW.  
Having some small increase in membership. Presenting some interesting and informative programs at Chapter meetings.  
Assisting the local JROTC units with opportunities and funds.  
Established our Newsletter as an “e News vice paper (over a year ago). Spouses are full members with full privileges, not associates.

**Challenges:** *Increasing number of members willing to accept positions Within the Chapter.*

**Future Initiatives:** Increase level of Legislative contact (both National, State and Local level. Increase active participation By members on our committees and board. Continue Recruitment of new/inactive members.

### Legislative Efforts

**Names of congressional reps you are covering:** US: Michael Burgess, Senators Hutchinson and Cornyn. TX: Tan Parker, Myra Crownover, Senator Nelson

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:** Very well, our IT “wizard” broadcasts each alert to members and our feedback is that our members are reacting.

**What postcards and letters are you sending:** Minimal. Do not send any USP mail unless members do not have e-mail or specifically request regular mail.

Chapter : **Rio Grande**

Chapter #: 27

Number of Members: 41

### Significant Highlights

**Successes:** We have had 5 new members to join our chapter.

**Challenges:** Need to elect new officers. No volunteers as yet.

**Future Initiatives:** Have a more active membership. Hopefully the newest members will want to get involved. Most of the older members are getting more frail. We now have several members with debilitating health issues.

### Legislative Efforts

**Names of congressional reps you are covering:**

Lucio, Hinojosa, at Texas level. Fed Ortiz, Hinojosa, Hutchinson ( who wants to be Gov) and Coryn. There are 8 districts down here and only a few are in my own district. I really don't know all of them

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:** They are sent by myself and by David Freeth . We e-mail our monthly newsletter as well to those who have e-mails

**What postcards and letters are you sending:** Monthly meeting notices via letter each month which is our news letter. In the summer when we don't

have normal meetings ( i.e. no speaker) I send post cards to let everyone know when and where we are meeting.

*Report submitted by: Edith L Clark ; President*

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Chapter: **Central Texas**

Chapter #: 22

Number of Members: Forty-five (45)

### Significant Highlights

**Successes:** Central Texas Chapter of MOAA met in the months of January, February and March. The Central Texas Chapter meets every 3rd Friday of each month at the Yank Sing Restaurant in Killeen, TX.

**January Meeting:** Acting President Pat Christ oversaw the swearing in of the newly elected Officers. Former Chapter member Judge Jon Burrows, COL, USAF(Ret) of Bell County, provided a detailed guest speaker presentation regarding the newly constructed Bell County Jail Facility.

**February Meeting:** Began with a discussion of the on-going Chapter sponsored Scholarship Program, and concluded with a passed motion to go forward with a memorial project to ultimately be erected at the Central Texas Veteran's Memorial Cemetery. Ms. Jean Shine, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), addressed the membership, and spoke in detail about the duties and responsibilities of a "Casa."

**March Meeting:** Commenced with further discussion led by Pres Pat Christ that centered around the chapter deciding that it would be able to accomplish both the scholarship program, and simultaneously moving ahead with the memorial project that would truly represent MOAA in a positive and permanent manner at the Veteran's Cemetery. The chapter was fortunate to host COL Barry Wright, USA (Ret), Deputy Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, MOAA National, who appeared as the guest speaker, and opened by recognizing Jim Endicott and his wife, Jean, for their prior and present distinguished service to their country, particularly MOAA at the national and chapter levels. Secondly, COL Wright presented a letter from MOAA National, which forwarded a 25th Anniversary Certificate to commemorate the Central Texas Chapter's continuous perseverance and contributions over the past 25 years. Pres Christ

accepted the award from COL Wright on behalf of the chapter. Thirdly, COL Wright presented to Pres Christ and First Vice President Josh Portmann, a Year of the Chapter Coin. Lastly, COL Wright explained the inner workings between MOAA National and members of Congress, and further discussed, "Storming the Hill," and the fact that MOAA Representatives continuously prepare year around to "Storm the Hill."

**Challenges:** Chapter decision to go forward with the MOAA Veteran's Cemetery Project simultaneously with continuance of the Scholarship Program.

**Future Initiatives:** Intensified chapter membership recruiting, advancement of the Scholarship program, and implementing the MOAA Memorial Project for the Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen.

### **Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps you are covering:** While attending the MOAA State Chapter President's Leader's Workshop (Training for Chapter Presidents) in Austin during February, 2009, President Christ reported that he spent one day working with MOAA State, and conducted an "on the hill" visit, and contacted six offices of the State Legislature. Pres Christ also reported that all offices contacted were "more than receptive" concerning pending and future veteran's issues, and all legislative representatives expressed strong support for any veteran's bills.

Following his February contact with State Legislative Representatives, and during the March chapter meeting, Pres Christ expressed the chapter's need to appoint a Legislative Committee Chairman in order to closely monitor several bills relating to the military that are currently pending in legislation.

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:** Chapter members regularly receive legislative updates via e-mail, concerning pending and passed veteran's bills. Request member to e-mail their representative.

**What postcards and letters are you sending:** - None.

Report submitted by:

Billy Hengler  
Secretary

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Chapter: **Alamo**

Chapter #: 16

Number of Members: 1054

### Significant Highlights

#### Successes:

- The chapter continues to move forward to the extent that our resources will allow. We had a very successful renewal membership campaign and were able to renew a fairly substantial number of members. Of course we were forced to purge out those who did not pay their dues. At that time we asked if everybody would donate as they saw fit towards our scholarship fund and that really was a pretty good effort – people will really open up their hearts for good causes.
- The chapter also plays very hard in the Volunteer Advisory Council on Ft Sam Houston and in that regard we had a very big success in that they are now quantifying the volunteer hours served on the post in an electronic fashion and we have a person in training to help us do that so we can take more credit for the number of hours we spend as a volunteer group on the Post. Also we are very involved in working as a liaison with the Post in having all of our volunteer positions identified, complete with job descriptions, so we are hopeful that we can pick up some resources in that regard as we go down the trail.
- Another good success was our TOPS coordinator, David Patrick who is the secretary for both the TCC and our chapter, in his capacity as the Texas Networking Coordinator continued to network by weekly emails with more than 190 networkers throughout Texas who help MOAA members and their spouses in their career transition. These networks provide transitioning job seekers in their area advice on the profession they are interested in and ideas on how to network more effectively in their area and give tips on how they can more effectively make their career transition. This is an excellent way of welcoming transitioning military members to our chapter and to MOAA. Ours TOPS representative recently represented MOAA at an Executive Transition Assistance Program at Randolph AFB. It was a week long program designed to help senior officers prepare for

career transitioning. David was able to sign up 18 new members for our chapter which is very helpful.

- Another good success was our success in recruiting and we give all the credit to a very strong recruiting Chairman. He has worked very, very hard with great effect and we were very pleased to receive several weeks ago to receive a handsome check from MOAA national for the membership initiative that we were successful in attaining in the Alamo Chapter.
- We successfully updated our strategic plan and have zeroed in on several areas of importance to the membership, obviously Personal Affairs, Programming and trying to concentrate our resources as best we can and our best payoff endeavors.
- We had our second annual golf tournament supporting the Warrior and Family Support Center and our scholarship program and again under the leadership of Gene Culp, one of our volunteer leaders, we were able to raise \$4,000. An increase in \$1,000 over last year. The good news is that was a very successful endeavor, the sad news is that we are going to need a new project officer to run it next year.

#### Challenges:

- Our challenges having enough people to do the work. It is a yeoman job in keeping such a large chapter moving forward. The volunteers are in some cases doing double or triple duty in their responsibilities so we constantly need to work on recruiting volunteer leaders.
- To help us meet this challenge we have instituted a “buddy program” where it is every staff member’s personal responsibility to recruit and mentor a current member to help fill our leadership succession voids. Names of who we are recruiting/mentoring are formally discussed at the monthly staff meetings in order to hold each of us accountable to this commitment.

#### Future Initiatives: Our priority issues are:

- *Retain and Grow Membership*

MOAA-AC must retain, recruit and serve a broad-based and diversified membership while being respectful of the past yet focused on the future. The current membership is aging which requires more attention given to potential members from the Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Retired and those who hold or have ever held a warrant of commission.

- *Conduct “Tailor Made” Programs and Events*

It is imperative that along with the current programs, a variety of “tailored” events should be held if MOAA-AC is going to

retain, recruit and serve a broad-based and diversified membership. Specifically, MOAA-AC must “break the mold” in past programming and design appealing events that attract and retain active duty and the recently retired.

- *Retain and Grow Volunteers*

The first two priorities will never be accomplished unless MOAA-AC does something to enlist more volunteers and retain their services. With a chapter membership in excess of 1,000, MOAA-AC should be able to attract more than the 5-10% of membership that come to luncheons and events and the 2-3% who now actively volunteer.

- *Build Partnerships in the Community*

There are ample opportunities for outreach, partnerships, networking and collaboration in this community. MOAA-AC must aggressively pursue, cultivate and nurture specific value-added relationships in the community -- to advance its vision -- to include sponsorships, branding opportunities and endorsement of a worthwhile cause or charity.

### Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

- We have four federal congressmen in our area, namely Congressman Smith, Rodriguez, Cuellar and Gonzalez.

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:

- We are doing reasonably well on the email alerts but I do think we could do better.

What postcards and letters are you sending:

- We are trying to formalize postcards and letter writing to these important political leaders and that is a project that is a work in progress.

*Report submitted by:* Edward L. Marvin, President

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Chapter: **Austin**

Chapter #: TX02

Number of Members: 277

**Significant Highlights**

**Successes:** Patriot Fund donation of \$5000; MOAA President highlighted our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration; 21 new members; arranged to present gold bars to University of Texas and Texas State ROTC qualifying cadets; more young leaders interested in serving AMOAA; effective Personal Affairs Committee presence in situations of crisis for our members, and obtaining an offer to advertise in our newsletter.

**Challenges:** Getting National to provide names of new national members in our area in an accurate and timely basis – or getting National to provide new members in our area our contact information.

**Future Initiatives:** Major: acquiring effective leadership in coordinating advocating locally and nationally. Minor: following up on current initiatives mentioned above.

**Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps you are covering:** (none well, some contact with the following) Cornyn, Hutchison, Doggett, and McCaul.

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:** relying on national and state efforts. Occasional emails re-emphasizing national and state issues.

**What postcards and letters are you sending:** none

*Report submitted by: Merlen Howe*

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Chapter: **Rose Capital**

Chapter #: TX 25

Number of Members: 122

**Significant Highlights**

**Successes:**

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## **1. Involvement in the community of Tyler, TX .**

**Since we joined the city of Tyler Chamber of Commerce last year we are presently on three committees for the Chamber .This has given us the opportunity to staff the Reception area for the Business Expo and the Seniors Celebrating Life Expo. Making us more visible in the community of East Texas.**

## **2. Recruiting Opportunities :**

**Being involved in the community has been a great recruiting opportunity for the Chapter. It has given us greater exposure in the community (that we are here). A number of members of the chapter regularly attend the After-hours receptions at various businesses and it has again been a great networking tool for us.**

**We also attend the Chamber breakfasts and luncheons when possible.**

## **3. Attendance at Chapter activities:**

**This past year we have seen an increase in the attendance at the Dinner Program Meetings that are held every other month. We have offered a variety of programs and have been very selective in the programs that we have unplanned.**

## **4. More involvement of Chapter members on various Chapter committees:**

**We have gotten several members to do the calling of the MOAA members that are in the East Texas area to possibly join our chapter. We also recruited a former officer to be the Personal Affairs Officer and she has become more involved in the planning of activities and social ideas for the chapter. We also have a spouse that is serving as our Treasurer and also has been an asset in the planning of activities for the chapter.**

## **5. Welcome Home Soldier Project:**

**We have helped in the development and support of this organization that greet our heroes when they return home .We have helped them financially and a number of our members regularly are there to meet and greet the returning heroes on a regular basis.**

## **6. Civil Air Patrol:**

**We have attended the Pancake Breakfasts that they have to raise money and recently had three of the members attend our evening dinner to tell us what they do. We have given them donations to help with special training for this next summer.**

## **Challenges:**

### **1. Recruitment of new members:**

Since we do not have a military facility here in the East Texas area we are restricted to those people that are in the local civilian community for possible membership. This is one area that we have spent a great deal of time in development.

### **2. Involvement of more of the membership in our ongoing activities:**

The Rose Capital Chapter has been here for 21 years. Many of the original Charter members are from the WW II era and have health or frailty issues which has restricted their involvement. We started having a Breakfast Social this past year and a few that do not come to the evening dinner come to the Breakfast.

## **Future Initiatives:**

### **1. Strategic plan:**

Fine tune the plan written up for the chapter and present it for implementation to the chapter membership.

### **2. Newsletter:**

Design a standard format for it. Develop a proposal to be submitted to businesses for purchasing of advertising space to help defray the cost of it being printed commercially.

### **3. Personal Affairs Workshop:**

Help the Personal Affairs Officer develop a workshop for the membership that wish to participate.

### **4. Revision of By-laws and responsibilities of officers and committee heads and members:**

These were written in 1987 and are in dire need of revision to better meet the needs of the chapter in 2010.

## **Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps you are covering:**

**The two principal Legislators that we have a close connection with are United States Representative Louie Gohmert and State Representative Leo Berman. Although the Rose Capital Chapter has a keen interest in all legislative action that impacts the community regardless of where or who it comes from.**

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:**

**Very good! We have sixty members that are on our e-mail communication. We send all of the special notices from the chapter, all legislative materials from the TCC legislative officer and from our Legislative officer and Personal Affairs Officer information. All information about the arrival of our heroes with the Welcome Home Soldier Project is sent to all on the list. Those that have e-mail are also those that are actively involved in the Chapter and regularly attend our activities. The Breakfast Social information is sent by e-mail.**

**What postcards and letters are you sending:**

**Postcards : These are sent out for the Breakfast Social to those who do not have e-mail. Approximately 42 - 44 are sent. This is every other month.**

**Letters:**

**We send a mailing out every other month to each member. In that mailing we send the Dinner Program reservation form, special information sheet from the Personal Affairs Officer if she has one for that mailing , legislative issues and a newsletter that is prepared by the Secretary .The newsletter contains all of the information on membership, officers, who to contact (telephone numbers and e-mail addresses) report on previous dinner program , all upcoming events, report from the Board of Officers as to what we are doing for the chapter. We also list all of the information on new members (name, service, rank, status, address, telephone and e-mail addresses).**

**In the near future we are going to do a pilot on sending our dinner form and newsletter by e-mail to cut down on the expense of mailing as it keeps going up. Each mailing we send out about 127 letters.**

***Report submitted by:***

***Shirley Lindsay Former LT NC USN  
Secretary,  
Rose Capital Chapter MOAA***

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**Chapter: Highland Lakes**

**Chapter #: 8**

**Number of Members: 81**

**Significant Highlights**

**Successes: 7 previous members renewed. 2 prospective members attended April meeting and voiced a positive response to our solicitations.**

**Challenges: Keeping what we have**

**Future Initiatives: Contacting all the National members on the list provided by Chapter Affairs and soliciting their attendance at our Sept. meeting.**

**Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps you are covering: US Senator John Cornyn, US Representative Mike Conaway, State Senator Troy Fraser, and State Representatives Jimmie Don Aycock and Harvey Hilderbran**

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: Pushing them HARD**

**What postcards and letters are you sending: Everyone that MOAA provides.**

*Report submitted by: Dale Fixsen, Chapter President*

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## **El Paso**

**President's Chapter Q2 2009 Report to TCC**

**<http://elpasomoaa.org/>**

**4/24/2009**

**Chapter accomplishments since last report dated 2/4/2009 Q1 Report**

- **3x Board Meetings...**
- **2x General Membership Meetings**
- **Added Garrison Command to 7x Active Duty Brigade Level Commands to our Board as Committee Chairs...**
- **Participated in TCC 2009 Advocating on the Hill in Austin and President's Training Symposium**
- **Participated in Texas AG Office Call on 2/4 in Austin**
- **Participated in Office Call on Texas Guard Association in Austin**
- **Published April issue of The Border Bulletin highlighting Mobilization and Deployment Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Armored BDE's training and support of deployment of 32d Infantry BCT, Wisconsin ARNG, deployment to SW Asia**
- **Published full page 2009 Directory with color photos of chapter significance on cover...**
- **Recruited total of 52x GMTs through 3/31 though not all in system and reported by national**
- **Chapter was represented at dedication of a Platoon Combat Training Facility by Congressman Sylvester Reyes at McGregor Range to honor the memory of COL Joseph C. Rodriquez, MOH, Life Member – MOAA and El Paso Chapter...contributed 1/2 of funds for bronze naming and memorial plaque with El Paso Chapter and MOAA membership acknowledgment by name...a chapter initiative began last summer with Fort Bliss...1<sup>st</sup> H BCT/1<sup>st</sup> AD's 1-36th Infantry BN provided combat demonstration in support of dedication**
- **Represented MOAA national at the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range on March 29, 2009...recruited 27x GMTs at event...BG J Morgan Jellett personally recruited over 2/3s of that number**
- **Chapter sponsored a team of Bataan Memorial Death March participants from 1<sup>st</sup> H BCT/1<sup>st</sup> AD by paying registration fee**

- Attended 4<sup>th</sup> BCT/1<sup>st</sup> AD pre-deployment Formal Ball...personal affairs for family and deploying members...recruited 79x new members for MOAA national from the sources indicated...6x Captains Career Course Graduation...BG Jellett, and BG Jellett, Colonel Lennie Enzel, Emiliano Gorgas, Dan Schulte, Judy and Ed Stone....1x O'Club - 32 IBCT IRR Chaplain, 4x IRR SRP, and 68x 4th BCT/1st AD Predeployment Fair for all in Brigade count at the Fair.
- Participated in three day pre-deployment fair for 4<sup>th</sup> BCT/1<sup>st</sup> soldiers and families at Soldiers Readiness Preparedness Center
- Attended and supported 4<sup>th</sup> BCT/1<sup>st</sup> AD deployment flag casing ceremony and reception on 4/25...recruited 3x more GMTS...total count for week of 4/20 is 82...
- Supported 5<sup>th</sup> BDE, 1<sup>st</sup> AD's fund raising golf tournament to set off enlisted costs for Formal Ball
- Developed legislative page on website in support of TCC's 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative advocating activities
- Generated numerous chapter emails in support of TCC's legislative lobbying activities in support of 4x issues and two Texas Guard Exceptional Budgetary Items, Priority 7 (Mental Health) and Priority 8 (Additional Funds for Guard Veteran educational benefits)
- Order of Daedalions briefed on TCC legislative activities and began recruiting at a monthly meeting
- 2008 Chapter Excellence Award submitted 4/15/2009 to national
- 4/22/2009, BG J Morgan Jellett was graduation speaker for Captains' Career Course Graduation

**Planned activities:**

- Continue engagement with Active Duty Units with an increasing emphasis on them during their deployments...more inclusion of them in our publication while they are down range
- Attend and support UTEP commissioning of 18x ROTC grads on 5/15
- Participate in TCC Q2 teleconference on May 2
- Participate in TCC Q3 meeting at Wichita Falls

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**North East TX**

#23

76 Members

We did a mailout with follow up phone calls and e-mails where possible. We mailed 235 letters. Result: 26 new members.

Our challenges continue to be our thirteen, rural counties with no military bases or college level ROTC programs.

**Future Initiatives: We are considering another mailout with emphasis on the "Give Me 10" program.**

**The U S Congressman for most of our region is Ralph Hall.**

**E-mail alerts: Our chapter Secretary, Capt Larry Silvey USNR RET, along with our legislative liaison, Capt John Biggerstaff, USAF(MC) RET, keep our e-mail alert system current and with timely follow ups.**

**In our mail outs we emphasize MOAA's role in promoting veteran affairs. We also send out Quarterly newsletters to our entire membership.**

**Report submitted by J. B. Mainord, LTC USAR RET**

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**Chapter: Greater Dallas**

**Chapter #: 3**

**Number of Members: 348**

### **Significant Highlights**

#### **Successes:**

- 1. Recruiting ten "young" new chapter and National members in this quarter.**
- 2. Becoming more active in other military veterans events and activities [eg: Dallas Military Ball, Dallas Veterans Day Parade, Reserve Aid, etc.]**
- 3. Visiting State legislators and staff members at their offices in Austin to ask for their support of beneficial legislation.**
- 4. Reinforcing the Austin visit with telephone, letter and personal visits to representative offices in Dallas metroplex.**
- 5. Responding to member requests for more lunches [vice dinners] and moving our lunch location to an upscale [more posh] facility.**

#### **Challenges:**

- 1. Rising costs; lunches, postage, printing, etc.**
- 2. Diminishing revenues; fewer members, inverse economics of raising fees**
- 3. Aging membership; majority of members are senior retirees**

#### **Future initiatives:**

- 1. Emphasis on recruitment of younger membership candidates.**
- 2. Effort to recruit local JROTC Officer instructors**
- 3. Increase effort to sell ads in Newsletter**

4. Reach more chapter members by e-mail to offset costs of Newsletter mailings
5. Participate more fully in Texas Council of Chapters meetings/teleconferences in effort to learn from other Chapter experiences.

### **Legislative Efforts**

**Names of Congressional reps you are covering:**

***State-wise;*** 3 Senators and fifteen Representatives.

***Nationally:*** Texas Senators, Cornyn and Hutchison; Texas Congressmen, Kenny Marchant, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Sam Johnson, etc.

**E-mail alerts:** We send out an average of three to four each month to about 225 members who currently have e-mail addresses.

**Postcards and letters:**

We provide our membership with the postcards found in the MOAA magazines and those received from TCofC .We also provide "cut and paste" suggested material for inclusion in individual letters to representatives.

**Report submitted by :** William Lavalley; President, Greater Dallas Chapter

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**Chapter:** **Wichita Falls**

**Chapter #:** 20

**Number of Members:** 50 paid members; we send newsletters (mail and email) to 100

### **Significant Highlights**

**Successes:**

Our paid membership has increased by approximately 60%. Attendance at our Chapter meetings has increased approximately 25%. Because of lower expenses, we are generating more income from the chapter. This has resulted from a change in meeting place, excellent food and good programming.

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**We are enjoying an excellent partnership with Sheppard AFB. We present an Outstanding Officership Award every six weeks to a top Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program (ENJJPT) pilot and receive excellent billing. Attendance at these functions approximates 200 officers and families.**

**We have also increased our book scholarships from \$100 to \$125. We present four of these annually to a top Junior in the JROTC programs at four area high schools.**

**We have participated in the Veteran's Fairs sponsored by the Wichita County Veteran's Service Office. Our focus has always been to garnish additional members. We have added a few new members from this activity. However there are more significant collateral benefits:**

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- 1. It provides excellent one-on-one visits with key individuals who manage Veteran's affairs on the federal, state and county levels. We've established additional relationships with Congressman Mac Thornberry's office through his Office Manager (Mac is a friend of MOAA), the Texas Veterans Land Board, The Texas Veterans Commission, and our local office Veteran's Counselors. It is a very direct way to stay abreast of Veteran's services as MOAA appeals to all veterans, not only officers. The benefits of this networking opportunity cannot be overstated. We encourage all chapters to participate in their local Veteran's Fairs.**
  - 2. In attendance at this year's fair was the Sheppard AFB Non-Commissioned Officers Association. This provided an opportunity for MOAA to inform them that we help them too. Our meeting with them over a 15 minute period was informative and helpful. I also learned about what they do. They learned we "CARE" about them too.**

**Challenges: Try to gain more participation by active duty personnel from Sheppard AFB. We enjoy a great relationship but the younger officers do not attend our meetings.**

**Future Initiatives: We are currently planning a large event centered on the Texas Council of Chapters meeting in Wichita Falls in August. We are anticipating that approximately 300 people will attend. Our military community as well as local civic organizations will participate in our planned program for that event. This will be a high profile local news media event designed to get MOAA in the spotlight in an outstanding military community. Planning is underway.**

#### **Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps you are covering: To assure as much coverage of the areas constituents, we have visited our Chapter's District Representatives and we have met with Representatives from areas surrounding our Districts as follows:**

**Personally visited with our Representative David Farabee (District 69 consisting of Wichita, Archer Counties)**

**Personally visited with our Representative Rick Hardcastle (District 68 consisting of Motley, Dickens, Cottle, King, Hardeman, Foard, Knox, Haskell, Wilbarger, Baylor, Throckmorton, Young, Jack, Clay, Montague, Cooke Counties)**

**Personally visited with Representative David Swinford (District 87 consisting of Sherman, Moore, Potter, Carson Counties)**

**Personally visited with Representative Warren Chisum (District 88 consisting of Parmer, Bailey, Lamb, Castro, Swisher, Armstrong, Briscoe, Hall, Donley, Collingsworth, Childress, Gray, Wheeler, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Hansford Counties).**

**Personally visited with Representative John Smithee's Chief of Staff Andrea Stingley (District 86 consisting of Dallam, Hartley, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Randall Counties).**

**We were unable to visit Senator Craig Estes (District 30) personally but did speak with and aide. Senator Estes was not in Austin at the time. She was very helpful and referred us to Senator Estes' Legislative Aide in Wichita Falls.**

**In all cases, we have been well received. Each has given graciously of their time to discuss our issues. Each representative views the issues as being important to their constituency and, most importantly, each have been supportive of MOAA's position on each of the issues. We believe we are accomplishing several goals:**

- 1. Show members of the Texas Legislature that our MOAA Chapter, as a group, really care about, and are knowledgeable of, the legislative issues Representatives deal with on a daily basis.**
- 2. Establish an excellent liaison/rapport with our representatives and feel the latitude to contact them with regard to future legislation.**
- 3. This was a great opportunity to educate them about MOAA as well as show them that we are a strong, influential part of their constituency.**

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: Excellent. We are gaining in membership. Some of this is due to the email alerts we receive.

What postcards and letters are you sending: We send out a newsletter two weeks prior to our regular membership meeting. We are striving to be more active with our Personal Affairs Committee and provide assistance by establishing contact initially by letter then follow up with a phone call.

*Report submitted by: LTC Larry. Petrash, USA (Ret).  
Wichita Falls Chapter President*

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Chapter: **Heart of Texas**

Chapter #: 7

Number of Members: 97

#### Significant Highlights

**Successes:** The chapter recently concluded its annual golf scramble charity fundraiser, which is the primary source of funds for scholarship awards and local program support. There were 76 golfers and the net amount raised was about \$10,500. The spring awards program consists of the following: \$500 award to outstanding USAF ROTC sophomore cadet at Baylor University, presentation of MOAA medal, ribbon, and certificate to outstanding USAF ROTC junior at Baylor University, presentation of \$150 US savings bonds and MOAA medals, ribbons, and certificates to the outstanding cadet in each of the five Waco JROTC units. A contribution of \$100 to the McLennan County Veterans Association in support of their Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Rosemound Ceremony; guest speakers include US Congressman Chet Edwards.

**Challenges:** The primary challenge is to continue to recruit new members who will participate in chapter programs and take on leadership responsibilities in officer and director duties. We still need continue participation in monthly dinner meetings to retain current membership and to encourage membership growth. We look for additional ways to get public notices in the local newspaper and magazines to make MOAA members and potential members in the local area aware of the chapter and its activities.

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**Future Initiatives: Baylor University has initiated an Army ROTC unit in addition to the current AF ROTC unit; we will be increasing our awards program for both units.**

**Legislative Efforts**

**Names of congressional reps you are covering: The Texas Senator is Kip Averitt and Representatives are Charles “Doc” Anderson and Jim Dunnam. The US Congressman is Chet Edwards and both US Senators John Cornyn and Kay Hutchison.**

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: We are e-mailing alerts.**

**What postcards and letters are you sending: We do both in mailing and e-mailing chapter monthly newsletters. We send out postcards and e-mails to remind members of the chapter dinners.**

***Report submitted by: Vince Tobola, Treasurer***