

3rd Quarter 2009 Officer and Chapter Reports to Texas Council of Chapters

Officer Reports

ADVOCACY AND PARTISANSHIP

Over the past several months, as the President of the Texas Council of Chapters, I have spent countless hours in Austin, at the Capitol, advocating for bills to be passed that would benefit our membership and the active military member, Guard, Reserves, spouses, children and Veterans.

In doing that, I have had to work with both Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, but at all times, they understood that I was advocating for my constituency on a totally non-partisan basis. They also understood that I represented a constituency that represented millions of voters in the state, who if they didn't please them to one degree or another, could turn on them and make life very uncomfortable for them! This type of non-partisan advocacy is the same that is practiced at the National level by our MOAA representatives who represent us at the US Congress. As many can see, this type advocacy has been very effective and MOAA has helped achieve getting the Congress to address many issues that affect the military, its families and veterans as well as our own membership.

The effectiveness of this type advocacy is evident in the fact that the President has met with our National President, Vice-Admiral Norb Ryan on multiple occasions to get his input on matters related to the military and veterans. It is also evident in that he is heard by the Secretary of Defense. It is evident in that *The Hill* newspaper, in Washington praised MOAA for its being one of the most effective advocacy groups before the Congress. It is further evident that each April, each states representatives are anxious to hear what their MOAA State Councils and constituents are talking about legislatively during the *Storming of the Hill*.

In the past several months, I have, however, observed a disturbing trend with some of our membership and with some Chapters, where partisanship has been creeping in with articles, statements and internet e-mails. This has bothered me a great deal, because I do not want this to

harm the carefully nurtured idea that we, as MOAA and MOAA representatives are non-partisan when it comes to what we are advocating.

It is fine for us to have our own political beliefs and opinions, but when there is any hint that we are representing the individual MOAA Chapter, the Texas Council or the National MOAA, we MUST leave our partisanship at the door! If we don't, we run the real risk of undermining our standing with politicians whom we want to influence for the greater good of our constituency.

I would ask that our membership and Chapter leaders take this to heart and cease any hint of partisanship when representing their Chapter, Council or National to the public or politicians!

Sincerely,

**Major James Cunningham USAR (Ret)
President
Texas Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America**

Report of TCC Vice President—Legislation

I. National Legislation

Most Chapters have become much involved in sending emails to Congress and are to be much commended for their efforts and their consciousness of the need to participate in MOAA's legislative efforts.

Chapters are urged to visit local Congressional offices reasonably available to them to increase their Legislators' and their staffs' awareness of MOAA and its important goals. It would also be helpful if Chapters also have post cards to Congress available for mailing at their member meetings. Chapters are encouraged to recruit several members to form a legislative committee to handle these various tasks so that no one member is burdened with too much to do. In my own Chapter we have found members receptive to aiding the national legislative effort, because they realize that their efforts are valuable in securing the passage of legislation of great significance to the military and veterans communities.

From TCC we have been sending Chapters monthly legislative updates summarizing information received from MOAA over the past month and have been sending email alerts when MOAA desires the membership to contact Congress. We hope that these communications are helpful to the Chapters.

II. State Legislation

Most Chapters participated in the Texas legislative effort in Austin in February. In doing so the Chapters established as never before a presence with the Texas Legislature. The results have been spectacular. Most of TCC’s high priority goals have been enacted into legislation, as recently reported in a Legislative Update and by our President, Jim Cunningham. The Chapters are to be much commended for their state efforts as well as their national efforts. TCC’s President, Jim Cunningham has been tireless in his effort to testify before Texas legislative committees considering legislation of interest to TCC, making numerous trips to Austin for this purpose. Jim, we all appreciate your efforts beyond the call of duty.

Jim has been advised by legislative committee chairpersons that MOAA should increase its presence with the Legislature. This involves closer liaison with legislative committees throughout the year, and, if possible, visits by Chapters to their local legislative offices. This latter task is difficult as there are approximately six times as many Texas state legislators as there are Texas federal legislators. The ideas of the Chapters are solicited as to how we might accomplish this task.

III. Recommendation

Based upon our experience in the past year, to increase the effectiveness of TCC’s legislative effort, it is the recommendation of the undersigned that the TCC office of Vice President-Legislative be split into two offices—Vice President-National Legislation and Vice President State Legislation. Both tasks require substantial effort and are essentially independent of one another. Moreover, the state legislative office needs to be performed by an individual who lives in Austin or San Antonio, or other community close to Austin so that it is convenient to attend the numerous legislative committee meetings when needed. On the other hand the national legislative office can be performed by an individual located anywhere in the state.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Briggs
 Vice President-Legislative
 Texas Council of Chapters, MOAA

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS-MOAA FINANCIAL REPORT, 26 APRIL – 14 AUGUST 2009

Beginning balance, 26 April 2009		\$6,225.02
Income:		
Dues – 2009	136.80	
“Give Me Ten” (National)	500.00	
Interest	<u>2.18</u>	<u>638.98</u>

	\$6,864.00
Expenses: Quarterly Meeting (Conference Call)	<u>139.87</u>
Ending balance, 14 August 2009	\$6,724.13
Balance in American Bank	\$6,724.13

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 03 Greater Dallas	136.80	TX 27 Rio Grande Valley	7.20
TX 07 Heart of TX	32.40	TX 25 Rose Capital	46.80

Total Collected: \$ 1,065.20

*Collected in 2008

Still to be heard from: Golden Triangle, Greater Lubbock and Wichita Falls. Brazos Valley has notified us that they are not going to join TCC.

**TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS – MOAA
2010 PROPOSED BUDGET (With 2009 Comparison)**

		2009 Budget	Actual to 8/14/09	2010 Proposed
Income:	Dues	\$1,115.00	1,022.00*	1,120.00
	Interest earned	15.00	3.63	10.00

	MOAA Nat'l. "Give Me 10"	0	500.00	0
		1,130.00	1,525.63	1,130.00
Expenses:	President	0	0	0
	Quarterly meetings	1,000.00	139.87	1,000.00
	Texan Newsletter	0	0	0
	Secretary	0	0	0
	Treasurer	0	0	0
	Legislative	0	0	0
	Veteran's Coalition Dues	50.00	50.00	50.00
	Nonprofit Renewal, Sec. of State	5.00	0	5.00
	MOAA Scholarship Fund	75.00	0	75.00
		\$1,130.00	\$ 189.87	\$1,130.00

Note: We actually collected \$1,065.20 in dues, difference was in early payment recorded in 2008.

8/14/09 lr

TCC QUARTERLY REPORT
August 22, 2009

MOAA's Government Relations and Council and Chapter Affairs departments are working on a program seeking chapter volunteers to serve as chapter liaisons for U. S. legislators in their chapter area. MOAA selects issues for discussion and sends information to the volunteer to discuss with the representatives. A good thing to do is leave copies of MOAA information with them.

Another word about the surviving spouse web site----

Access www.moaa.org/survivors, SECOND—click on the topic you want. There are a variety of topics here.

For liaisons—FIRST access www.moaa.org SECOND—hover over Chapters/Community link on the home page with your mouse until a dropdown menu appears. Click on Chapter Leaders on the left side of that menu. Scroll down to Auxiliary Liaisons to access monthly menus, etc. I hope this gives you more information for your needs. I also hope you will consider being a legislative volunteer.

Alice Karr
TCC Auxiliary Liaison

**Report by Ginny Alloway
Texas Director, MOAA Board**

- **THE TRICARE CONTRACT HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED. AETNA IS A NEW CONTRACTOR. JOHN CLASS, DEP DIRECTOR FOR GOV RELATIONS HAS RESIGNED FROM MOAA AND IS NOW EMPLOYED WITH AETNA. NO REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN NAMED. HE WAS ALSO CO-CHAIR OF THE MILITARY COALITION. NO REPORT ON THAT EITHER. (I quoted from the Fri. 21Aug Leg. Update on the contract. Add if you think it important.)**
- **SPEAKING OR TRICARE; MEDICARE/TRICARE PAYMENT RATES : CURRENT LAW CUTS THE RATES PAID TO DOCTORS BY 21% ON JANUARY 1, 2010. KEY LEADERS IN CONGRESS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEY WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN. WITH THE CURRENT HEALTH CARE REFORM IN PROGRESS, WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN. REST ASSURED THIS WILL BE A STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT ON MOAA'S PART – AND PROBABLY A “STORMING OF THE HILL’ ISSUE. MOAA REALISES THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE, BUT WOULD PREFER AN INCREMENTAL RAISE RATHER THAN DOUBLED OUTRIGHT.**
- **MOAA HAS BECOME A MAJOR LOBBYIST FOR MILITARY BENEFITS. THE NEWSPAPER, THE HILL, HAS STARTED QUOTING COMMENTS FROM MOAA.**
- **APPLICATION FOR CFO POSITION IS STILL OPEN. YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT GLENN ZAUBER IS RETIRING FROM MOAA. THEY ARE LOOKING TO FILL HIS POSITION. UNFORTUNATELY, TOMORROW IS THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS.**
- **ALSO, THE AUX IS LOOKING FOR 2 REPLACEMENTS FOR 2 MEMBERS WHO WILL COMPLETE THEIR TOUR. IF ANY AUX MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED, HAVE THEM SEND IN A RESUME. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN AREA.**
- **HOPEFULLY ALL OF YOU RCV ‘THE WKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE’. THE AUG 10 ISSUE STATES 6 GOALS. IF YOU DID NOT RCV THIS, I HAVE A COPY AND WE CAN ZEROX IT. AS YOU ALL KNOW, MOAA CANNOT GIVE PREFERENTIAL SUPPORT TO A POLITICAL PARTY. SO IF YOU'RE DISCUSSING POLITICS, PLEASE STRESS IT'S YOUR OPINION NOT MOAAs.**

- **THERE WILL BE A WW SEMINAR IN DC 16 SEPT AT THE HILTON ALEXANDRIA MARK CENTER. IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE WEBSITE IS: WWW.DEFENSEFORUMWASHINGTON.COM.**
- **FOR THOSE OF YOUR AUX MEMBERS RCVING SBP/DIC—THE LATEST IS \$10 INCREASE 1 OCT THEN ANOTHER \$10 A YR FOR FY 11,12, AND13 THEN BY MORE STARTING FY 14. SEN BILL NELSON’S AMENDMENT IN THE SENATE VERSION OF THE FY2010 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL TO REPEAL THE OFFSET, AND WILL BE TRYING TO WIN ITS RETENTION IN THE FINAL BILL. NOT OPTIMISTIC! THIS WILL PROBABLY BE A ‘STORMING’ ISSUE AGAIN IN 2010.**

Chapter Reports

El Paso President's Chapter Q3 2009 Report to TCC

<http://elpasomoaa.org/>
8/14/2009

Chapter accomplishments since last report dated 4/24/2009 Q2 Report

- 4x Board Meetings...
- 2x General Membership Meetings
- Published 2x issues of The Border Bulletin
- Participated in JROTC Awards Ceremonies
- Participated in TCC Green to Gold commissioning program at UTEP...thank you TCC for the 21x sets of Gold Bars and Commissioning Certificates
- Lobbied local State Legislators up until 1 June in support of TCC legislative objectives
- Began developing succession slate for 2010
- Assist in Retiree Appreciation Day preparation

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
- Participate in TCC Q3 meeting at Wichita Falls

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 (ie no speaker) I send post cards to let everyone know when and where we are meeting.

Report submitted by: Edith L Clark ; President

Chapter Name: North DFW Military Officers Association

Chapter #: 31

Number of Chapter Members: 118

Significant Highlights

**Successes: Won 5th successive 5 star award for excellence
Awarded \$1500 and \$500 scholarship to graduating JROTC cadets.**

Challenges: More involvement in internal Chapter functions by more members. Same folks (20%) do all work; remaining 80% merely attend meetings.

Future Initiatives: See Challenges (above). Need to develop innovative ideas/ways to induce members to higher levels of activity.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering:
Congressman Dr Michael Burgess (26th District)

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: Very well. We have a high rate of responses to alerts!

What postcards and letters are you sending: Bimonthly Chapter Newsletter. Personal Affairs correspondence as appropriate and necessary.

Other Significant Comments

One member, Maj Brian Michael newly deployed to SW Asia.
One member, Captain Bruce Balvin currently deployed to SW Asia.
Awarded 8 JROTC and 1 ROTC Medals to Graduating Cadets.
Presented 11 sets of "Gold Bars" to graduating ROTC cadets as they were Commissioned.

*Report submitted by: Charles Correll
President
North DFW Military Officers Association*

Chapter: East Texas Chapter

Chapter #: TX04

Number of Members: 30

Significant Highlights

Successes:

1. Coordination with the Veteran's Heart Museum to have an East Texas Chapter MOAA spot for advertisement/recruitment purposes.
2. Increase community awareness by using the local newspaper to announce our meeting date and place.

3. Two new applicants for membership.
4. Presented two \$500.00 Scholarships to SHSU R.O.T.C. cadets.
5. Invited Col Yebra, the new Professor of Military Science, to join East Texas Chapter.
6. The last Chapter meeting was a luncheon on Lake Conroe's paddle wheel boat—the *Southern Empress*
7. Chapter representation at the August Commissioning of two Sam Houston State University R.O.T.C cadets.

Challenges:

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

Future Initiatives:

1. Community awareness program by establishing a U.S. Flag disposal drop box.
2. Coordinate and support the *Rebuilding Together* Program.
3. Conduct MOAA fund raiser golf tournament for Hearts Military Museum. (The tournament will be held Nov.8, 2009. All are invited to attend).

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

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

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: 12 e-mails.

What postcards and letters are you sending: 10 Letters on national issues.

Report submitted by: Jerry E Jackson, President East TX Chapter

Chapter: Central Texas Chapter

Chapter #: 22

Number of Members: Forty Seven (47) (Dues Paid)

Significant Highlights

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

April Meeting: President Christ's announcements pertained primarily, to the Chapter's monitoring of the legislative progress of veteran and military pending bills. Specifically, President Christ advised that at that time, the legislative bill pertaining to property tax relief for 100% Disabled Veterans appeared as though passage of this bill was not very likely. Therefore, in regards to this bill as well as other legislative matters, President Christ urged the Legislative Committee to continue to keep the membership informed, and requested all members to contact our legislators, and let them know how we feel about pending matters.

Colonel William H. Parry, USA (Ret), Executive Director, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance for the Central Texas Region, appeared as the guest speaker, and provided a detailed "analysis" of what's going on with the Ft. Hood Plan, as it exists today.

May Meeting: Legislative Committee Chairman briefed our membership on two pending bills. The "Scratch Off" game bill (that would provide revenue for the Texas Veteran's Fund), and the bill that would provide total property tax relief (waiver) for veteran's certified with 100% disability. In summary, the membership was informed that unfortunately, both bills do not appear (at the present time) to have a lot of legislative support. Again, the membership was urged to convey their support for passage of these bills to their respective legislative representatives.

Brigadier General Jeffrey E. Phillips, USAR, Deputy of Public Affairs (IMA), addressed the membership as the guest speaker regarding his responsibilities, which include formulation of communication and public affairs strategies, plans and policies.

June Meeting: Commenced with a presentation by President Christ to Chapter Member Colonel Jack W. Oliver, USA (Ret) (1942-1972) in honor of his great life-long service, not only with the military, but also to TROA, MOAA, and his outstanding twelve years of service to the people of Bell County as a County Commissioner. Also, in support of the Chapter's continuing efforts in the JROTC Scholarship Program, President Christ directed that an effort be made to invite all of the affiliated JROTC Military Instructors to attend and make presentations, possibly during the August meeting. President Christ expressed the opinion that from such a meeting, the Chapter would be able to do a better job of "mentoring and working" with the JROTC Programs in the area.

Colonel Reginald Allen, Commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, assisted by his OPS and INTELL Officers, provided the guest speaker presentation. The topic was a detailed picture and specific information of what his Regiment faced, and how they succeeded during their last deployment to Iraq (Ninewa Province and Mosul area) from November, 2007 to January, 2009.

Successes continued... The previous 1st Quarter Chapter Report outlined under "Future Initiatives," Intensified chapter membership recruiting, advancement of the Scholarship Program, and implementation of the MOAA Memorial Project for the Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen.

During this period, significant accomplishments were achieved in all three areas. Paid up chapter membership increased from 45 to 47, military scholarship nomination packages underwent group examination, and a potential military officer was selected for benefits under the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. Also, at the direction of President Christ, fund raising for the memorial project continued, and the Memorial Committee was requested to narrow the search for a specific memorial project to be placed at the Veteran's Cemetery at Killeen, TX.

Challenges: Recruitment efforts widen for new chapter members, Fundraising and selection of a fitting MOAA Memorial Project, and Advancement of the Scholarship Program.

Future Initiatives: Intensified chapter membership recruitment to continue. Improve liaison with JROTC Military Instructors, to include possibly, appointing "Advocates" to interact with JROTC Candidates and Instructors to monitor candidate progress and selection quality. Continue to move forward with the Cemetery Memorial Project. Provide Scholarships.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

Continue to communicate with legislative offices on veteran's issues.

Names of congressional reps you are covering:
House District 54--Representative Jimmie Don Aycok
House District 55--Representative Ralph Sheffield
House District 52--Representative Diana Maldonado
House District 50--Representative Mark Strama
Senate District 24--Senator Troy Fraser

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:

*Jos Portmann
First Vice President*

Lone Star Officers Club **Quarterly Report, 2nd Quarter, 2009**

The following is the 2nd quarter report of the Lone Star Officers Club of Fort Worth, Texas. This report covers the period from April 1, 2009 until June 30, 2009.

At our board meeting in April we continued our pursuance of the chapter goals for 2009 set at our board meeting in January. Those goals are to (a) provide \$2,000 scholarships to 3 JROTC/ROTC members, (b) continue a Support the Troops program and (c) continue our new member procurement drive.

Our chapter continues to enjoy our monthly meetings at the Ridglea County Club in west Fort Worth. Because of the outstanding venue and superb quality of speakers, our meetings continue to draw a robust number of members. During this reporting period, the chapter held three full membership meetings. The monthly meetings featured a variety of pertinent/interesting entertainment so as to appeal to membership and assist in stimulating attendance.

The Lone Star chapter continued to participate in the Give Me Ten recruitment program by attracting four (4) new members since the beginning of 2009.

Our chapter was once again the recipient of MOAA's 5 Star Award of Excellence. This is the Lone Star chapter's 3rd year in a row to achieve this level of recognition.

Our Legislative Liaison, Colonel Jim Costin, received national recognition by winning the best Legislative Publication Award for chapter with 100 – 299 members. This was Colonel Costin's second consecutive award in this category

At our April meeting, our Scholarship Chairman, Mrs. Vickie Keehr, held a pass-the-hat fund drive. At our May board meeting, our board members reviewed the biographies of the scholarship candidates provided by our Scholarship Chairman and selected the three outstanding cadets. Two were JROTC cadets from the Richland High School and Birdville High School and the third was a ROTC cadet from Texas Christian University. The chapter hosted the winners, their parents and their program commanders at our June monthly meeting.

Our chapter continued its postcard writing campaign to members of US Senate and House of Representatives. This program consists of preprinted postcards addressing topics of enormous importance to military personnel. These are distributed at the sign-up table at our monthly meetings. Members write their return addresses and sign the cards. The chapter then makes certain the label for the correct representative for each member is attached to front of the House of Representatives card, postage is paid and card is sent to the congressional member. So far this year we have sent 455 postcards.

CWO Gene Posey, our search committee chairman, is continuing to seek volunteers to fill vacancies on our board.

Respectfully submitted by LCDR Wes Charles, LSOC, 2nd Vice President and TCC Representative.

Chapter Name: Greater Lubbock Chapter

Chapter #:

Number of Chapter Members: 79

Significant Highlights

Successes:

- **Created a VA Committee to work with the Veterans Administration and local VA Hospitals and Clinics to support our veterans.**
- **Increasing membership is an increasing emphasis. Added two new members in August.**
- **Scholarship Fund \$26,653.17**
- **General Fund \$3,866.02**
- **Membership voted to increase participation with other local veteran organizations to jointly participate in community events and to promote information to the public.**
- **Increased involvement in the information area and to contact media areas to inform what MOAA is doing in the community as well as other military organizations.**
- **Attendance at monthly meetings on the increase**
- **Participate in and support military families in the community and have representatives at Family Day events for the National Guard, and Reserve.**
- **Participate in Welcome Home Events for our troops that have been deployed.**

- One of our chapter members, David Cummins, discovered another free way in which GLC MOAA can publicize an activity it is promoting; e.g. a visit to a Reserve or National Guard unit's Open House event is PressEgg.com www.pressegg.com which provides free accounts to non-profit organizations.

Challenges:

How the chapter should participate in legislative efforts. Chapter has been reluctant to push agenda.

Future Initiatives:

Continue to challenge membership to be pro-active in legislative actions and support of national.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering:

Participation is being done individually and not as a chapter

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:

Alerts are responsive, however, motivation is still not as we would like.

What postcards and letters are you sending:

NONE at the present time

Other Significant Comments

Our Chapter is becoming more active and interested in participating in events outside of the immediate chapter. This may be a change or it could be I am new to the area and not as familiar with past events. I will work on becoming more knowledgeable of past events.

Report submitted by:

*BG (Ret) Gary G. Harber
President*

Chapter: Highland Lakes

Chapter #: 8

Number of Members: 80

Significant Highlights

Successes: Membership Chairman sent out 13 letters to prior members who had not renewed for 2009, 7 renewed.

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. and/or Nov. 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 Aycok 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

Chapter Name: Heart of Texas

Chapter #: TX-07

Number of Chapter Members: 92

Significant Highlights

Successes: The chapter recently made its selection for spring scholarship awards: two at \$2,500, two at \$2,000 and one at \$1,000. We will also be supporting a new Army ROTC unit at Baylor University that is starting this fall, in addition to the current Air Force unit. We have recruited 4 new members in the last quarter. We have maintained our monthly dinner meetings with variety of guest speakers and entertainment as well as having monthly Board meetings.

Challenges: Continuing to work to bring new and old members into officer positions while director positions are normally easy to source volunteers. Continuing to recruit new members and encouraging participation at the monthly dinner meetings, averaging 40-50 members, spouses, and guests.

Continuing to work on getting feedback from members on their interests in speakers and entertainment for the monthly meetings.

Future Initiatives: We are trying a new fundraiser for our scholarship fund, which is special drawing for hunting rifle and accessories; our primary fundraiser is April golf scramble.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering: Rep. Chet Edwards.

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: We publish as become available.

What postcards and letters are you sending: We are sending monthly newsletters out through e-mail and regular mail. We send out e-mail reminders on the meetings and postcards too.

Other Significant Comments

Report submitted by: Vince Tobola, Treasurer

Chapter Name: Rose Capital

Chapter #: TX25

Number of Chapter Members: 122

Significant Highlights

Successes:

- Received notification that the chapter was awarded a four star level of excellence for 2008. It appears to be a first for the chapter.
- Revised the chapter bylaws and awaiting final approval by the membership.
- Continue to maintain chapter membership numbers and better than good attendance at programs.

- Continue to improve chapter involvement with community civic and business leaders.
- Continue to improve chapter recognition and participation within the community.
- Participating as a committee member in putting together and operating the Tyler Chamber of Commerce's annual Senior Expo event.

Challenges:

- To strength and build on the chapter's recruiting program.
- To increase membership numbers, particularly with younger officers.
- To increase membership interest in chapter activities and attendance at programs.
- To strengthen and increase the number of membership volunteers in support of the chapter.
- To identify viable fund raiser programs that will help to supplement chapter revenue intake.
- To continue chapter support to military community projects.

Future Initiatives:

- Revision of chapter newsletter to increase its productivity to the membership.
- Look for ways to increase chapter advertising capabilities and materials.
- Continue to promote development of a community military coalition with other organizations. The intent is to work together on common issues within the military community.
- Promote chapter support to Tyler's upcoming Senior Health & Living Expo and Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament.
- Complete the development and set in motion the "Chapter Strategic Plan".
- Set up a comprehensive communication plan to be more in touch with those in the chapter that is unable to participate in chapter activities. Reasons may be individual transportation issues that the chapter officers can help with.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering: U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert and State Representative Leo Berman are the legislators that the chapter has close associations. The chapter maintains a close relationship with Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass as well as

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: The chapter takes every opportunity and every available means to notify the membership of e-mail requirements and encourage a response.

What postcards and letters are you sending: For postcards and letters, the chapter uses a similar method as e-mail.

Report submitted by:

***Jim Snow
President***

Q3 TCC Meeting
MOAA Alamo Chapter Five Star Chapter

Dear Friends,

First of all, I apologize for not personally being there. Many of you know of my strong conviction for the Texas Council and the benefit it provides for local chapters. A family priority has evolved itself, i.e. my 40th wedding anniversary, that is taking me away from the area for a few days during the meeting. Jim Cunningham and David Patrick, Alamo Chapter leaders, will certainly carry out our chapter responsibilities in their characteristically outstanding manner.

The first comment I would like to make from my position as Chapter President is that I truly applaud and give a sincere thank you to Jim Cunningham, the current President of the Texas Council of Chapters, and, as you know, Executive Vice President of the MOAA chapter (Alamo) in San Antonio. Jim, with his leadership and his team, has done perhaps the greatest service to our respective chapters than any other Council President during my nearly ten years of personal involvement. His leadership during the advocacy portion of the Texas biennial legislative session was extremely effective and brought great credit to the MOAA "label". I am proud to have Jim as member of our chapter and of course use his leadership in the chapter capacity as well as the state capacity.

Along those lines I would like to say that we work very, very hard at the chapter level to ensure that political partisanship does not rear its ugly head during our deliberations and our efforts to advocate for what is right for our membership. I have to admit at times this is a difficult task given the fact that each of us have our own partisan political feelings with our own personal philosophies. But as all

of you do know, that does not work in a non-partisan, not for profit organization like our chapters. What is important is not whether we are Republicans, Democrats or an Independents. What is important is that we support legislation that is effective for America and effective for our military fighting men and women, be they retired, Guard, Reserve, Active Duty or a family member. I hasten to add that we work this philosophy very diligently at the local level.

My second comment is that our chapter continues to work very hard on membership. In that regard I want to report that we are extremely blessed to have a membership chair that is doing a great service for our chapter in getting more members. Words cannot explain how effective he is. He works very, very hard at his task, he continues to do a wonderful job for our chapter and in spite of losing members he works very diligently to make sure we have a net gain each year. So the bottom line is, so far as the continuation of chapter efficiencies and chapter effectiveness we need to have a strong membership initiatives and strong dynamics for recruiting new members. The Alamo chapter right now is doing so well because of the individual leader that has the responsibility for that area. The chapter thanks Randy Hoff, our leader in membership recruiting.

Speaking about that you have heard me say often times in my past life as a past president of the Texas Council that really, it is leadership that counts. I have talked several times with our national President, Admiral Norb Ryan, and he and I tend to agree with that conclusion. I'm sure each of you do as well. We do need to continue to develop leadership. As an aside, I had a Board member who was an Active Duty O6 but for one reason or another he could not continue his service to our chapter due to other priorities. He was basically transitioning to the retirement side of life. I have let him know that there is always an open door and an open chair in our chapter for people of his leadership ability. He could move forward to the state level and the national level if he so desired. We must continue to groom and court leadership that is younger than us to carry on the missions that we so patriotically serve as volunteer leaders in our respective chapters.

The last comment I would want to make is that our chapter has worked diligently and I'm afraid I am preaching to the choir on this, to ensure that we have non dues income to help us support our operational budget and our scholarship initiatives. We are happy to say that we did initiate and add two new scholarships in our local chapter. Among those lines you need money to fund them. We must continue to work hard at getting advertising revenue. We have just initiated, it's in its formative stage, a "Business Partnership Associates" program in which we are going to ask for a fee (yet to be determined) and have local businesses become associates in our chapter. For that we will give them acknowledgement in our award winning newsletter and we will also place them on our website for our membership and others to review. To help make that sale we do send out *The Lariat* to all of our local politicians of note as well as to people in positions that it is important that we get our brand to. That serves two

purposes: 1) it keeps the MOAA name in front of them and helps us brand our effort and 2) it causes the business associates to think this is not a bad deal because they will be getting their business name in front of a lot of respected community leaders and politicians. That never hurts to help their brand as well, and importantly it is another non-dues income revenue stream.

Again, I regretfully acknowledge that I can't be there and visit with our friends. I just want you to know that I appreciate your friendship and loyalty in the past and am looking forward to continuing that relationship in the future.

Respectfully,
Ed Marvin
President, Alamo Chapter

Chapter: Alamo

Chapter #: 16

Number of Members: 1125

Significant Highlights

Successes: Membership Efforts, Advocacy Initiatives, Personal Affairs

Challenges: Membership, Advocacy, Personal Affairs, Leadership Recruitment. Interesting to note that chapter successes are also chapter challenges. Go figure. Conclusion: doing good but could do better.

Future Initiatives: Continued Membership effort, more personal involvement with our political associates, initiation of a Business Associates program.

Legislative Efforts

Names of congressional reps you are covering: Senators Cornyn and Hutchison, Representatives Smith, Cuellar, Rodriguez and Gonzales.

How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts: My best guess is fair but always room to improve. Chapter membership involvement better but not where we would like it. Just must continue to stay determined.

What postcards and letters are you sending: We have initiated but to date it is piecemeal. Do want to advise that our Legislative Chair, Frank Parks has been called home. His great service to his country and to MOAA was

outstanding. He will truly be missed by our chapter as a friend and a patriot.

Report submitted by: Edward L. Marvin, President

Chapter: Austin

Chapter #: 16

Number of Members: 260

Significant Highlights

Successes: Development of programs to feature Service updates during birthday months; broaden scope of member involvement in program activities; Effective participation in the “Gold Bar” Program; participation in JR ROTC awards programs.

Challenges: Review of chapter by-laws; Review of auxiliary/regular membership benefits/requirements; working with National on the administration/enhancement of the “Gold Bar” Program.

Future Initiatives: Development of enhanced co-operation, communication with Service related organizations with the community; follow up on current successes and challenges.

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

**3rd Quarter Chapter Report
to
Texas Council of Chapters**

Chapter Name: Del Rio/Fort Clark

Chapter #: T-26

Number of Chapter Members: 20

Significant Highlights

Successes: Received plaque and flag that flew over Camp Lindsey, Kandahar, Afghanistan from Col. Lee, Laughlin AFB in recognition of Club's support given servicemen there. Added several new members and located new meeting place at San Felipe Country Club.

Challenges: Loss of key meeting places with closing of former Officers Club at Fort Clark and Saturday closing of Officers Club at Laughlin Air Force Base. Unexpected death of long time president Col Lindenschmidt. Maintaining membership after move from base at Fort Clark to Del Rio. Total lack of support from local newspaper editor.

Future Initiatives: An active recruiting campaign to bring membership back up. A probable move back to Fort Clark and its base of retired officers when remodeling of the former officers club is complete.

Legislative Efforts

**Names of congressional reps you are covering:
U. S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez. U. S. Senator Cornyn and senator-candidate Williams.**

**How is your Chapter doing on e-mail alerts:
None.**

**What postcards and letters are you sending:
None, but plan to begin. Would like postcard and letter material from TCC or National MOAA.**

Other Significant Comments

Report submitted by:

**CDR Edward L. Dillon. Usn-Ret
Presidentdwpatrick**