

# Annual Meeting Report – State of the Chapter

October 22, 2009

by

President – LtCol Ed Marvin

We are pleased to present the Annual Report to the membership especially given that your chapter was recognized again with a Chapter of Excellence award as a Five Star Chapter. Jim Cunningham and I will have the honor of being presented the Five Star Banner in literally two days at MOAA's Annual Meeting in San Diego.

This status did not just happen. It happens because of a continuing and growing membership and the important role that each member plays in the chapter dynamics. It happens because of the chapter leadership and the hard work of those reporting below, including their respective leadership teams. It is a great privilege to serve our honored membership and to work with such a dedicated team of volunteers.

Additionally, let me acknowledge, in addition to our membership and the chapter leadership team the great dedication of our volunteer Board of Directors BGen Robert Herring, Col Ed McCarthy, Col Mac McDonald, Col Frank Rohrbough, LtCol Harry Carpenter, LTC Jim Finch, LTC John Gibbs, LTC Bill Goforth, LTC Sumner Hudson, and Susie Tolman.

I am proud to represent your chapter and you can be assured I will be bragging on your chapter later this week at the Annual MOAA meeting.

## **Exec VP Operations – Major Jim Cunningham**

The Executive Vice President's Office was very active this year in the areas of legislation, logistics, duty officers and public relations. It regretfully lost two of its longtime Officers, who were key members of the Chapter, namely the Legislative Vice President, Major Frank Parks, and Duty Officer, Captain Walter Grinfield. In addition, LTC Phyllis Smith resigned as the Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations after having done some yeomen's work in getting the Chapter better known in the community. However, newly appointed LtCol Cheryl Smith has picked up the challenge and has been doing really well by the Chapter in getting great branding for us and our activities.

The Alamo Chapter has become better known politically through the advocacy efforts of Maj Frank Parks and LtCol Ed LeFebvre. They kept a running dialog with various representatives and Senators from the local area and kept the membership aware of what was going on in legislation that would affect them. In addition, as the President of the Texas Council, I kept a very high profile with our legislators during the 81<sup>st</sup> Session and together with the Texas Coalition of Veterans, succeeded in getting some very good pieces of legislation passed that benefit the active military, Guard, Reserve, Veterans and their families. This ranged from better educational benefits to a new scratch off lottery ticket that will fund assistance to veterans in need. This brought MOAA's profile to the fore with these legislators and had the side affect of getting our local Chapter recognized, as well.

LTC Randy Hoff has done an exemplary job as the Vice President – Logistics. He made sure that each meeting had all of the necessary equipment to make it go smoothly. He priced, compared and purchased a sound system and microphone for the Chapter, which will help in future Chapter functions. Lt Col Fred Koechley has now taken over the position allowing Randy to concentrate on his new and very successful mission as the Vice President of Membership.

Colonel Kerry Green, with the able assistance of Trish Meserve, has continued to produce an exemplary newsletter, *The Lariat*, for our membership. It again was recognized at the National MOAA level as being one of the best newsletters in the country. We are slowly trying to move delivery of the Lariat over to e-mail so that we can save on the cost of printing and mailing it. We will, however, continue to have those who will need to receive it on paper.

Other projects that are being worked include the possible involvement of the Chapter with the VA Polytrama Center and also with another non-profit organization that is trying to organize and become a clearing house for all of the groups in San Antonio that work with the military, veterans and their families.

## **VP Administration (Open)**

The position of Vice President – Administration has been ably managed by LCDR Gil Rodriguez this year. Unfortunately, the position is now open since Gil has relocated to a new retirement community

in Georgetown, TX. This department contains some critical positions that help keep the chapter up and running behind the scenes.

Staff Consultant (Major Len Mull) continues to provide updates for our marketing pieces and application forms and tackles any other task that might be thrown his way! He works in close coordination with the rest of the Staff to insure that he publishes the most up to date information for our new members and prospective members.

Special Activities Rep, Susie Tolman, keeps our chapter involved in the community by representing the chapter at meetings of the Ft Sam Houston's Volunteer Advisory Council, the PX/Commissary Council, and the Veterans Administration Volunteers. She also rallies the troops for assistance with the Christmas project of decorating the VA Hospice Ward, Dayrooms and Nurses station, coordinating gift bags and entertainment for the patients.

Susie runs and keeps the records of the Volunteers (Cookie Angels) who donate baked items, fruits or personal items and help serve meals to the wounded soldiers at the Fisher House and, in her spare time makes all the nametags and is the greeter for the social Function attendees, as well as making the decorations for the Spring and Fall picnics.

Colonel David Patrick, of The Officer Placement Service (TOPS) for the Chapter is also the MOAA Networking coordinator for Texas. The program continues to re-energize itself through the efforts of approximately 200 individuals/networkers throughout the state who volunteer to help career transitioning members and their spouses seek transition assistance and job opportunities. These networkers provide transitioning job seekers advice on the profession they are interested in; ideas on how to network more effectively; help "open doors" to prospective employers; and give tips on how they can more effectively make their career transition. This is an excellent way to welcome transitioning military members not only to Texas but to joining Chapters. E-mail updates are sent weekly to these Texas networkers to provide advice and job opportunities for transitioning members. This testimonial from a career transitioning Air Force Officer shows that TOPS and networking works. "I recently moved from Florida to San Antonio. Prior to moving I sought advice and counsel through the Texas network and was amazed when they helped me set-up over a dozen networking meetings/informational interviews with prospective San Antonio employers . . . TOPS and its career transition assistance is a tremendous benefit of belonging to MOAA" said the former officer.

Advertising Coordinator, LtCol David Walker, reports the chapter has managed to have good stability in advertising this year and have covered the cost of the Lariat. Work is ongoing in attracting new advertisers and complying with rules and regulations regarding bulk mail rates for non profit entities.

ROTC coordinator LCDR Gil Rodriguez organized sixty ROTC/JROTC awards to area high schools and colleges, and the Scholarship Committee presented 2 JROTC scholarships of \$500 each and the \$2,000 Colonel Torrey Community Service Scholarship award. This was the first year that the Chapter also participated in the "Gold Bars" program sponsored by MOAA National. As a result, the Alamo Chapter presented Gold Bars and Certificates as well as free one year memberships to many newly commissioned Lieutenants from area Colleges and Universities.

#### **VP Membership & Retention - LTC Randy Hoff**

The total membership over the year has increased by 140 members or 14% to our current numbers of Active Duty members 292, Retired members 594 and Auxiliary members 257.

The recruitment program offered through MOAA national has brought us 238 mostly Active Duty members. Increased membership numbers are primarily gained from the newcomer's gatherings at Ft Sam Houston, local TOPS briefings and the "Gold Bars" program. All were augmented by the constant updating and use of our Recruiting Board and aggressive recruiting by key members of the staff. In 2010 recruitment will be expanded with the help of a power point presentation to be shown at recruitment opportunities such as army unit briefings, local PX's, hospital facilities and newcomer's orientations. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of MOAA Life Memberships to qualify for a chapter stipend and on increasing the number of renewals from the active duty members.

#### **Treasurer – Col Vaughn Caudill**

Because of the great work of Gene Culp and his committee members and the generosity of the members the Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament was a tremendous success bring in around \$4,700. Also,

through the generosity of the membership we have over \$5,000 in donations to the outreach/scholarship fund.

For the operations account, membership dues revenue is down while advertising revenue is up. It looks like for the year revenue will equal expenses for a break even condition. With the current economic conditions break-even is good. The staff has done an excellent job controlling costs so we don't exceed revenues.

**Secretary – Col David Patrick**

The focus of the Chapter continues to be driven by its strategic plan priorities of retaining and growing membership; conducting tailor-made programs and events; retaining and growing more volunteers; and building partnership in the community. The planning will continue with the Chapter annual planning day to be scheduled in December.

**VP Programs (Open)**

LtCol Ed Marvin as President has temporarily stepped in to this position and garnered some great speakers over the past year all along the theme of military leaders within the community and have included FSH Casualty & Mortuary Affairs spokesperson James Stokes; former USAA President, Bob Gaylor; Randolph Commander Col Jacqueline Von Ovost; Ft Sam Houston Garrison Commander Col Mary Garr; Lackland Vice Commander Gregory Parsons, USAA Board Member Major General Alfred Valenzuela; and former CINC US Strategic Commander General Gene Habiger. Programming for 2010 is currently being planned.

The Solitaires, the singles social group coordinated by Mavis Cleary reports that during this year the membership has remained pretty constant. Some beloved members have been lost and some new ones gained. Approximately 20 to 25 people attend the monthly meetings. This year the speakers have been drawn from both the talented membership and from the community to include a police officer, animal rescue, free lance writer, Red Ribbon Corps founder and information about the many tours our members have taken. The two biggest accomplishments of the group include developing a calling committee for the MOAA Alamo Chapter and making over 3,000 red ribbons for the Red Ribbon Corps to be placed on the graves at Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery on Veterans Day.

**Financial Report**

by

**Treasurer – Col Vaughn Caudill**

MOAA-AC Financial Data

As of September 30, 2009

**Outreach Fund**

Revenue

Donations	\$5,263.00
Golf Tournament	<u>4,723.62</u>
Total Revenue	\$9,986.62

Outflows

Charities	\$2,325.00
Scholarships	<u>3,300.00</u>
Total Outflows	\$5,625.00

Increase in Outreach Fund    \$4,361.62

**Operations Account**

## Revenue

Donations	\$1,780.23
Membership Dues	15,500.00
Non-dues income	7,202.22
Social Events	<u>(406.31)</u>
Total Revenue	\$24,076.14

## Outflows

Contractor	\$6,474.00
Lariat	7,141.27
Phone/internet	873.29
Postage	3,230.97
Other	<u>2,681.42</u>
Total Outflows	\$20,400.95

Results \$3,675.19

**Bank Balances**

## Operations

Eisenhower Checking	\$8,987.49
USAA Certificate	<u>\$15,411.79</u>
Total Operations	\$24,399.28

## Outreach

RBFCU - Savings	\$1,025.00
Money Market	5,336.83
Checking	680.85
Certificates	<u>8,682.22</u>
Total RBFCU	\$15,724.90