



ROAL

Reserve Officers Association League of the United States

www.roa.org

National
Newsletter
*
August
2010

ROAL

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This newsletter is published four times a year in the Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. Members are encouraged to contribute articles for publication.

ROAL August Newsletter, 2010 Linda Veres, ROAL President

The National Conference in Las Vegas was very informative. The Strategic Planning Committee met for 2 days and did a very good job. The minutes are in this newsletter. I attended the ROA ex-com meeting. The next National convention is still in the planning stages and I will pass along the information as I receive it. You can also check the ROA web site for information.

In our last newsletter I asked the Clubs and Departments for a list of their officers and their contact information and as of today I have only 9 lists and 2 are mine. In case you have misplaced the form I have included another one in this newsletter. Please fill out the form and return it to me. You can also e-mail the information.

We have decided not to have a separate ROAL luncheon at National Convention to keep the cost down. We will only have our meetings in the morning and hopefully will have time for outside activities, weather permitting, and we WILL have better weather next year. I hope to have the ROAL suite open the whole time for activities that will be fun. Bring games or crafts and your favorite beverage.

We are planning another newsletter probably in October with the convention information. Your delegates need to be elected at your meeting.

If there is anything else you would like to see in our newsletter, please let us know.

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Report from 1st VP Catherine Luke

Website

One of our continuing discussion topics has been the need to communicate with our members, and potential members, in a timely, engaging manner. Toni Livingston has been instrumental in inspiring us to make updates and changes to the ROAL website and we have taken some initial steps with the help of Kelly Matthews and Tracey Ware. If you have internet access, please check out the new look. It is a work in-progress and we need your suggestions as we plan next steps for "phase two" which will be unfolded after our national convention in 2011.

We are particularly interested in updating the list of ROAL club activities and the organizations that we partner with and support. A partial list includes:

Sew Much Comfort, USO, Fisher House, Ronald McDonald House, Adopt-A-Soldier, VA Hospitals, Defense Education Forum, ROTC, Women's Veterans Memorial, Scholarship Fund.....what are we missing?

Please send your additions, comments and ideas to:

Toni Livingston, 1108 Wagon Ridge Rd., Raleigh NC 27614
email: nc1108@juno.com

Between Now and our 2011 Meeting....

Several of the articles in this issue of the newsletter refer to proposed changes to our ROAL organization. We are at a time of great opportunity and challenge and your input is needed!

The members of the ROAL Executive Board and Strategic Planning Committee who met together in Las Vegas on June 25 and 26 explored many alternatives and the tone of the meeting was clearly a sense of urgency in needing to make some structural changes to our organization. In order to move quickly enough to be ready for our 2011 National Convention, we are planning the following:

- August Newsletter: content includes reports from the June meetings, preview of potential resolutions and proposals for change, request for individual/club feedback by note, email or telephone
- October Newsletter: content will include proposed resolutions and request for individual feedback in form of questionnaire that can be completed and mailed or can be completed online.
- Changes to the website to include more information and to make it more interactive

Please contact our National President, Linda Veres by email, telephone or send her a note (contact information is on Page One). We need your ideas!

Department of Washington Convention Report By Norma Martin

Amid the sand and surf of Pacific Beach, Washington, we held our ROA/ROAL State Convention at the Pacific Beach Convention Center. Friday night was the Fun Night with the theme being, "Come as your favorite book character." Theme tables were decorated from James Bond 007 to the Cat in the Hat.

On Saturday, ROAL gathered for the Department of Washington and Evergreen Club meetings. We welcomed our National Western Area Director, Phyllis Sellen, as our special guest and speaker at our noon ROA/ROAL All Service Luncheon. The Officers for Evergreen Club who were installed at the noon luncheon were: President: Barbara Stoddard; Vice-President: Teri Barnes; Treasurer: Chadwick Stoddard; Chaplain: Portia Smith; and Secretary: Dudley Brown. In the evening we had a delicious banquet. Department of Washington officers installed were; President: Norma Martin; Vice-President: Andy Chumney; Treasurer: Barbara Stoddard; Chaplain: Portia Smith; and Secretary: Teri Barnes. We then had an exciting and entertaining auction.

Fisher Houses at Seattle and Joint Base Lewis-McChord will both receive a check for \$1,000. Our fundraiser was an exciting and successful event that will benefit our military community.



The Department of Washington presents a donation check to Joint Base Lewis-McChord Fisher House.

**Minutes of the ROAL Executive Board Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada
Hilton Hotel
Saturday, June 26, 2010**

The ROAL Executive Board met with the following members present: President Linda Veres, 1st Vice President Cathy Luke, 2nd Vice President Toni Livingston, Treasurer Barbara Stoddard, Chaplain Jocelyn Keagy, Historian Rhetta Mears, Immediate Past President Anne Groskreutz, Area Directors Nancy Case and Phyllis Sellen. Also present were Marjorie Davenport, Strategic Planning Committee, Marjorie Loop and Arlene Joyce.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Veres.

President Veres reported on some of the information she had received during the ROA Executive Board meeting she had attended yesterday. Highlights of some changes to the format of the upcoming winter Convention were discussed and noted. Some of these scheduling changes may impact the timing of some of the ROAL events during the convention. One such change may be the 1st Timers Reception may be held on Saturday rather than Sunday. There will be no service section or ROAL luncheons. Linda will let us know what final changes are implemented as she becomes aware of them. The Memorial Service may be held on Sunday or Monday depending on the schedules of the Chaplains. ROAL Chaplain, Jocelyn Keagy will contact the ROA chaplain to see if it is possible to once again do a joint service with ROA and ROAL. The registration fee may be tiered depending on the number of days attending and meals served.

Cathy Luke reported on the ROAL meeting held on Friday with the Strategic Planning Committee. Items discussed included having a newsletter sent in August and another one before the convention in October. Some items to include in the August newsletter are articles to stimulate discussion about changes in ROAL structure to include elimination of Departments, combining and/or eliminating officer and committee positions. Specific information on the topics discussed will be in the October newsletter. Information will be requested from the members via a survey in the October issue.

Discussion of website redesign and the need for updates to be done in a timely manner followed. A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$3,000 for the website redesign and updates. The motion was passed unanimously by the executive board.

Cathy will be meeting with Kelly Mathews and Tracey Ware on July 1st to discuss the website and the possibility of using the site for a survey of members. ROA's site surveys allow for the possibility of collecting email addresses.

A discussion followed of some fun activities that ROAL can do during the convention. One that everyone thought would be fun was the possibility of having a "Book Club Discussion". It was suggested that the first one should be "Who Moved My Cheese". This could be done on Sunday or Monday evening in the ROAL suite and we could have everyone bring a bottle of their favorite wine and we would share some wine and cheese. Other fun activities that were discussed were some tours, particularly those that might be of low or no cost to members. The idea of using the ROAL suite and having it open more would help show that ROAL is using the space given by ROA for supporting our goals.

Linda reminded everyone that election of officers will be taking place at the convention in February. If you or someone you know is interested in running for an office, please let Anne Groskreutz know. She is Immediate Past President and is, therefore, in charge of nominations. Your assistance in finding leadership for our organization is greatly appreciated.

President Veres asked if there was any other business and hearing none, thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Groskreutz
Acting Secretary

A Call for E-Mail Addresses!

To be included on electronic ROAL updates, send your e-mail address to Tracey Ware at: **tware@roa.com**

**Department of Ohio
Convention Report
By Shirley Mendralski**

The 85th ROA and 60th ROAL Annual Convention was held on April 23,24 & 25, 2010 and was hosted by the Mahoning ROA Chapter 42.

The weekend opened at the Hospitality Room at 6 P.M. A group did walk to a restaurant next to the hotel for dinner. After dinner, they returned to the Hospitality Room for more socializing with old and new friends and the tasting of the excellent snacks and desserts.

Saturday morning, the Opening Ceremony was called to order by the ROA Department President – CWO4 George Jones. After an Invocation, Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance, President CWO4 George Jones welcomed everyone to the ROA/ROAL Annual Convention. This was followed by a welcoming by ROAL President – Sharon Maykowski and Host Chapter President – COL Walter M Duzzny. Many interesting speakers followed. ROAL exited at a break for their Business Session but returned for the Tri-Care update before lunch.

The Luncheon Speakers were Congressman John Boccieri, D – OH and CAPT Marshall Hanson, USNR who gave an update from ROA National. After the Luncheon, ROA returned to their Business Session and ROAL was recessed until Sunday Morning.

The President’s Reception and Banquet was enjoyed by everyone. The speaker was Major General Matthew L Kambric, Assistant Adjutant General for Ohio. He was a very interesting speaker. After his presentation, he assisted the President of the Host Chapter COL Walter Duzzny in presenting an “Ambassador Award Certificate” to each attendee present. This was followed by the Installation of ROA and ROAL Officers conducted by CAPT Marshall Hanson and the ROAL Drawing. It was a great evening but it did not end there. We all went back to the Hospitality Room for more socializing.



Ohio ROAL Members at the 2010 Annual State Convention

The ROAL Drawing was very successful this year. The total was \$402.00 which was donated to the Fischer House and Ohio Family Support.

Sunday morning began with the ROA/ROAL Memorial Service. The names of the 2009-2010 ROA/ROAL deceased members were read and honored along with the deceased active military members from Ohio for 2009-2010. Once again it was a very moving ceremony. Thanks to COL Richard Hoffman and Susan Mendralski for making this service special.

The Memorial Service was followed by the resumption of ROA/ROAL General Session. After short meetings by both groups, the 85th ROA and 60th ROAL Annual Convention was adjourned.

The ROAL Officers for the 2010-2011 year are:

President-----Sharon Maykowski
Vice President----Shirley Mendralski
Treasurer-----Patricia MacDonald

Historian-----Shirley Mendralski
Chaplain-----Dorothy Williams
Secretary-----Susan Mendralski
Parliamentarian----Esther Reis

What Happened to the ROAL pages in The Officer? **By Cathy Luke**

Some ROAL members have raised questions regarding why recent issues of The Officer magazine no longer contain an ROAL President's Message and a page dedicated to ROAL news. The reason is that ROA has made some changes in the focus for this publication. ROAL President, Linda Veres, was notified in October of 2009 of changes that would be forthcoming and the following are excerpts from that communication:

"The Officer will be published as a four-color, glossy bi-monthly magazine of 72 pages. It will be delivered by mail to ROA members, to flag and general officers regardless of membership in the Association, to members of Congress, and to industrial partners. The published magazine will also be made available to prospective members of ROA through recruiting efforts and delivery to military installations. The Officer also will be published in an on-line virtual edition, enhanced by hot links, streaming video, and audience interactive capability.

Producing a professional, relevant, and engrossing magazine on a slim budget is not easy. Nevertheless, we need to maintain the professional standards of a mass-circulated consumer magazine, and we will do so through the following means:

- All material will be original and written specifically for The Officer, except in rare instances when reprinting a limited-

circulation commentary or essay serves the magazine's educational role.

- We will have a stable of trained journalists available to write features, allowing The Officer to delve into important issues with thorough research and professional, balanced presentation.

- Some features will be solicited from authorities in the field and, by their nature, present the author's point of view. We will also run contracted submissions from our STARS and affinity partners.

- As part of the directors' roles in keeping ROA members informed, they will contribute original articles for the magazine. They will leverage their expertise to provide factual insights into issues and trends with suitable research and solicit credible sources and resources for direct quotes or background.

- ROA National Security Reports will all be original to The Officer. We will solicit papers from members, from professional military education students, from military scholars and authorities, and from STARS partners.

The Officer is an integral part of a multi-faceted communications strategy that will include Internet elements, a newsletter, and other products...."

If ROAL is to be represented in the Officer Magazine in the future, we will need to submit articles that follow the new guidelines. News items will need to be submitted for publication in the online newsletter. For example, see Linda's contribution to the April newsletter.

ROAL Needs Leaders.....Can You Help? **By Anne Groskreutz**

Don't say no, because, yes, you can help! ROAL is facing a critical time in its history and EVERYONE is needed to contribute to the health and well-being of the organization. Our organization is changing with the times and needs leaders who are willing to help make those changes to keep us vital into the future. If you or someone you know in your club or department is willing to help provide this leadership, please let me know. I am willing to answer any questions or speak to anyone interested in leading our organization. Just let me know of your interest or of anyone you know who has interest in becoming a leader in ROAL.

Please send me your name or the name of someone you think might be interested in filling a leadership position to:

Anne Groskreutz, ROAL Immediate Past President and Nominations Committee Liaison
annegros@bellsouth.net or home phone 770-973-5584 or cell 612-875-1967 or send mail to 2122
Glenridge Ct, Marietta, GA 30062-1879

Thank you for your consideration and help in leading us into the future. The organization cannot continue without your support.

The Future of ROAL By The Strategic Planning Committee

Several ROAL Strategic Planning Committee and Executive Board members met for a planning workshop in Las Vegas on June 25 and 26. The group reviewed the notes from our Orlando national convention, our declining membership statistics, the changes proposed by ROA, the trends and patterns of other similar organizations and we determined that some bold action is needed in After much discussion, it was decided that the convened group will draft resolutions in the following areas. These will be communicated in a newsletter in October in order to give clubs the opportunity to discuss them and provide feedback to us before the national convention (January 30-February 3 2011). A survey will accompany the proposals in that October newsletter. It will also be possible to complete this survey online. We are eager for BROADBASED input! There are many important considerations to be addressed!

Potential Resolution Regarding our Structure:

**Delete
Offices of:**
2nd Vice President
Historian
Departments

**Retain/Combine
Offices of:**
President
1st Vice President
Treasurer
Area Directors
Chaplain
Immediate Past President

Committees of:
Resolutions/By-Laws
Budget/Audit
Credentials (for short term)
Convention (Booth, tours,
ROTC, Luncheon)
Communication (new
Committee to include
website, newsletter, etc.)
Strategic Planning
Awards/Incentives
(Scholarship)
ROAL Suite (Past Presdients)

Appointed Representatives:
Defense Education
Endowment
Sergeant-at-Arms

Clubs
Members at Large
will be assigned to a club;
that club will be in proximity
of X miles or established as
an electronic club or through
snail mail or round-robin
communication

* A resolution will be drafted to dissolve the departments for the following reasons:

- Currently there are many departments that do not meet the by-law criteria for a department
- Departments are having difficulty in filling leadership roles
- Some departments have already dissolved (i.e. North Carolina)
- Area directors are fulfilling some of the functions that departments did previously
- This will streamline the collection of dues process

Potential Resolution Regarding Voting:

We also discussed the structure for voting for officers, resolutions, changes in by-laws and there will be a resolution to change the voting process to a one-member-one-vote. In this scenario, items to be acted upon at conventions would be submitted to the entire membership and each member would be given the opportunity to vote either electronically or with a paper ballot. Information would be mailed to members in the October newsletter preceding the annual convention.

Convention 2011 Proposed Schedule:

Also, we discussed the structure for the convention in Washington D.C. for 2011. Our recommendation is that the convention should do the following:

- Reduce the amount of time dedicated to official meetings
- Schedule some events that will include touring and lunch off-site
- Include “fun” activities (ex. Board Game Night, Cards, etc.)
- Add sessions that will provide information to participants (Clubs sharing ideas of projects that have worked; we could invite speakers/organizations for partnering)
- Do a service project such as Card-Making (valentines?) for servicemen and women or veterans



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Potential 2011 Convention Schedule

(subject to modifications based on the ROA schedule)

Monday:

AM **Join the ROA for Opening Session**
 Short Business Meeting to introduce resolutions to be acted upon
PM **Tour of White House with lunch off-site**
Evening: ***Who Moved My Cheese?* Book Discussion**
 Board Games in ROAL Suite (invite ROTC, families, etc.)

Tuesday:

AM **Short Business Meeting**
 Informational Sessions highlighting "What Works" in Clubs
PM **Free Time**
Evening: **Service Project in ROAL Suite**

Wednesday:

AM **General Session**
 Short Business Meeting/Installation of Officers
PM **Visit to another site in DC (to be determined)**

PLEASE GIVE US COMMENTS OR INPUT REGARDING OUR WORK TO DATE

Send feedback to Catherine Luke at ilukeint@aol.com.