



ROAL

Reserve Officers Association League of the United States
www.roa.org/roal

National
Newsletter
*
Fall
2013

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.

President's Message

I am very humbled at being elected ROAL National President. I am following in the footsteps of some excellent Past Presidents with many great leadership qualities. My desire is to fill those footsteps to the best of my ability. Cathy Luke will be a hard act to follow, as she set the bar very high with her leadership and communication skills.

I would like to thank the newly elected members of the Executive Board for accepting this role for the 2013-14 term. My plan is to continue the monthly conference calls in order to improve communication among the members of the Board. I would like for the entire Board, and all ROAL members, to include the MAL, to know that my door is always open for new ideas, communication, and if needed, change for the way we have and are presently running our meetings for ROAL.

My goals are to continue the work with STARS and to continue our dedication to the Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen and their families, especially during deployments. We need to work on increasing membership for ROAL. One of my goals is for us to contact the members that we have not seen over a long period and ask them to take another look at ROAL.

I look forward to the challenges of the coming year and solicit your thoughts. Let us move ROAL forward.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Sellen, ROAL National President

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2013 National Security Symposium/Convention Review August 7-10, 2013

Supporting Military Families: An Interview with an ROAL Family

What are the stories of today's reservist families? What might we do to provide support within our communities? The Reserve Officers Association League (ROAL) has been eager to answer these questions. Opportunities for ROAL are unfolding as we continue working with Leanna Jackson, ROA Director of Development, and her staff in framing the family support initiative of the STARS foundation.

While each of us has stories about our own family experiences with our reservist spouse or family member, the challenges and opportunities of today's families have some unique dimensions. ROAL member, Mrs. Mary Quinn (Pittsburgh, PA) and her children twins Matthew and Thomas, 10 years old and their sister, Keira, who is nine,



The Quinn Family

her children, twins Matthew and Thomas, 10 years old and their sister, Keira, who is nine, spoke candidly about their experiences with deployment during the recent NSS convention.

The children described their experiences before, during and after the deployment of their father, Captain Edward Quinn, Army Reservist. They shared information on how they received book bags (Operation Military Kids) that included dog tags, pens, pencils, calendar (countdown to when parent would be back), postcards, a "doll" that had a slot for the parent's picture (a bigger hit with Keira than the boys), a book *The Kissing Hand* and materials with ideas for staying connected.

How did you stay connected?

Matthew: "We would Skype with our Dad every Saturday morning. Our Mom talked with him every day."

Thomas: "Our Dad had one of our Lego figures and he would put it in different places and send us pictures (like flat Stanley); we sent him boxes of things he would like and we hid things in it (like the Pittsburgh Steeler's terrible towel)"

How did things go at school?

Matthew: "Mom went to talk to our principal and emailed our teachers to let them know that our Dad was going to be deployed."

Thomas: "Other kids would ask questions like 'Has he killed anyone?' and 'What are the chances he'd get killed?' We'd have to explain that there are all types of different jobs over there... it's not just shooting people."

Keira: "I went to the guidance counselor...I had a calendar of when I would go to her. Sometimes we would talk about how I'm doing. The guidance counselor was a big help."

Matthew: "The understanding from some teachers was that this is like Daddy being on a business trip for a few days... but it's not."

Thomas: "One thing special: On Veteran's Day, we got to go to a party before school and have breakfast and only military families were invited (elementary school's PTA put it on) anyone who was a veteran (grandparents and parents, etc.) We were surprised by all the people who were there." (Mary: "Most were not currently serving".)

How were things different when your Dad was deployed?

Thomas: "We all had to help out...lots of things didn't work...there was a lot of calling and waiting for repair people...we would make decisions together..."

Keira: "We usually get huge Christmas trees (Mary: 8 or 9 feet); we got a small one that year and we all had to help bring it in..."

Continued on page 4.

2013 National Security Symposium/Convention Review August 7-10, 2013

Meet the Officers

Phyllis Sellen: National ROAL President, San Fernando Valley Club, Served as National First VP, California Department President
Barbara Stoddard- National ROAL Treasurer, Evergreen Club, National ROAL Secretary

Andrew Chumney: National ROAL Secretary, Evergreen Club, Washington, Served as National ROAL Secretary

Meredith Austin- Southeastern Area Director; Georgia Club, Georgia Department Past President



Anne Groskreutz- National ROAL Parliamentarian, Georgia Club, National ROAL Past President, Strategic Planning Committee, National First VP, National Second VP

Linda Veres- Western Area Director; Harbor Club, California; National ROAL Past President, National First VP, National Second VP

Beverly Merrilees, Area Director At-Large, Space Coast Club, Convention Chairperson, Booth Chairperson, ROA Florida Department Secretary

Not Pictured:

Gay Kayye- National First Vice President, Triangle Club, North Carolina, (Southeastern Area Director

Cheryl Carathers- Mid-America Area Director Member-At-Large, TX (Co-Chair of SPC, Department of Texas President)

Toni Livingston- Southeastern Area Director, Triangle Club, North Carolina (National ROAL Secretary, National First Vice President, Co-chair of SPC, Member of SPC)

Betty Doty-Northeastern Area Director, Philadelphia Club, PA (Member of SPC, National ROAL Chaplain, PA Department President)

Jane Lazo-Northeastern Area Director- Boston Club, MA (MA Department Treasurer)

Gift card winner announced!

At the National Convention in August, ROAL had a promotional table on display to share with others the work our members do. As an incentive for potential new members to share their contact information, we offered a \$100 gift card.

The winner is... **LT Paul J. Pelletier, USN!** Congratulations! LT Pelletier served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 and is actively involved in ROA as the Department of Iowa treasurer. Thank you to all those who shared their contact information at the convention. We hope that you, or those in your family, will consider becoming involved with ROAL in the future!



With Sincere Appreciation!

Words seem inadequate to convey the deep gratitude I owe to the members of the Executive Board, loyal committee chairpersons, and treasured ROAL friends who have supported our shared mission during my presidency. You have been a faithful source of inspiration, encouragement and wisdom in helping to shape a future for ROAL that maintains the integrity of the group's mission and traditions while adapting our methods for doing business and maintaining communication. I am honored to have served as your National President and I thank you, sincerely for your patience and support.

*With warmest regards,
Cathy Luke*

2013 National Security Symposium/Convention Review August 7-10, 2013

Supporting Military Families: An Interview with an ROAL Family *Continued from Page 2*

How were things different when your Dad was deployed?

Thomas: "We all had to help out...lots of things didn't work...there was a lot of calling and waiting for repair people...we would make decisions together..."

Matthew: "Before, when we would go to our events, usually our Dad would take care of us but, when he was gone, we had to be together all the time"

Keira: "We usually get huge Christmas trees (Mary: 8 or 9 feet); we got a small one that year and we all had to help bring it in..."

What about help from the community?

Matthew: "Our neighbors helped a lot: if our mom had to go somewhere, we'd go to their house (usually when my mom runs in the morning).If our Dad had been there, we wouldn't have done that"

Mary: "A local Girl Scout troop adopted Ed's troop and sent him things, too."

What about his return?

Keira: "We made a paper chain for all the days he was gone and we took one down as we got closer."

Matthew: "The last few days before our Dad was coming home, we'd write something down on the links that we'd want to do with him and put them in a jar... so when he came home, he pulled fun things out of the jar and we did them."

Thomas: "It's easier now that he's back and the nights are more fun; before we go to bed we play hide and seek (with Dad) like we did before he left."

What ROAL learned from discussions with Mary Quinn and her children:

- There is a definite need to formalize resources for schools. Excellent resources exist, but our research shows that they may not be reaching the families and schools at the time needed. The toolkit is both necessary and timely.
- Other opportunities for ROAL might include creating pillow cases with the deployed parent's picture (more private), taking an active role in helping to promote reservist/veteran civic contributions (or recognize schools who do), and organizing support cadres for families of deployed reservists, particularly in areas where there is no easy access to a Reserve Center.

The above interview was conducted by Christina Luke, (ROAL Newsletter Editor), Anne Groskreutz, (ROAL National Parliamentarian and ROAL Past President) and Cathy Luke, (National ROAL President at the time) in an attempt to capture today's stories as plans are being made to create the toolkit under development by the STARS Foundation.

COMING NEXT ISSUE: How might social media be useful in providing support for older military children (middle school and high school)? This is a follow up to the question posed Sarah Smith by Major General Andrew Davis during the NSS Family Panel Discussion. ROAL member, Stephanie Smith and her daughter, Sarah, participated in the panel along with Mary Quinn.

2013 National Security Symposium/Convention Review August 7-10, 2013

Ford's Theater Tour and Luncheon

ROAL Lessons Learned From Lincoln:

Convention Chairperson, Bev Merrilees did a fantastic job of meeting our objective of having fun together during the August NSS Convention! Our personal interests have been piqued by the recent releases of Lincoln movies and documentaries and the choice of the Ford Theater and Lincoln Museum were both timely and informative! We enjoyed a great lunch together at the ...Bistro, and the take-away even included some lessons (*Learning from Lincoln...* by Alvy & Robbins) for ROAL's future!

- Implementing and sustaining a mission and vision with focused and profound clarity (This is the perfect time to implement "serving citizen warriors and their families within our communities"!)
- Building a Diverse and Competent Team to successfully address the mission (Thanks to those who have agreed to serve on the Leadership team for 2013-2014! Your skills and commitment are exemplary and we are poised for success!)
- Rising beyond personal and professional trials through tenacity, persistence, resilience and courage (This is the story of our ROAL members...and it is our relationship with each other that provides both roots and wings!!)

"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle"
-Abraham Lincoln



Sara McKimm Burton, ROAL National President from 1992-1993, listened to Bev Merrilees' report at the ROAL business meeting.



Deena Reem-Robinson (L) and Linda Veres (R), congratulate Phyllis Sellen (C), at the ROAL President's Reception.



Rick Riccardi and Andy Chumney at the ROAL President's Reception.



The ROAL group waits outside of Ford's Theater for a tour.



Bev Merrilees, who coordinated a tour of Ford's Theater and Luncheon, shows her ticket before entering the tour.



The ROA president's reception featured a photo booth. Past president, Cathy Luke, and her daughter, Christina, participated.

Club News

ROA/ROAL State Convention, Pacific Beach, WA

September 13-14, 2013

By Teri Barnes

The theme for the Friday night fun night was "Come as your favorite actor or actress." The ROAL Evergreen Club furnished all the decorations and entertainment for the State Convention. Robbie Brockliss made up the games and set up a camera to take pictures of members arriving on the red carpet. The room came alive with table decorations and memorabilia provided by Andy Chumney, Portia Smith and Teri Barnes. Howard Pettibone, dressed as Frankenstein, won first place for the costume contest and Dave and Kathy Murray won second place dressed as Dale Evans and Roy Rogers. There was popcorn and prizes for the game winners followed by a raffle. My favorite prize was the patriotic screen saver not for the computer. This screen saver is magnetic and goes on a screen door.

Western Area Director Linda Veres attended the Convention and installed the new officers for ROAL. I also put her to work Sunday morning baking an egg and sausage casserole. Her casserole was delicious!

The Saturday night banquet ROAL held included a fundraiser auction for ROA/ROAL members. Chad Stoddard was the auctioneer. The proceeds went to Joint Base Lewis McChord Fisher House, Seattle VA Puget Sound, Fisher House, Bugles Across America and S.T.A.R S (Standing Together for America's Reservist). The live auction and silent auction combined raised approximately \$2,270.00 for those charities.

ROAL also raised \$400.00 from the sale of USO coins to help pay for the renovation of the USO at SeaTac International Airport.

On Sunday morning the ROAL hosted a breakfast for the ROA/ROAL members at a house overlooking the beach. Andy Chumney was in charge of the breakfast and head chef. It was a wonderful variety of food. Bacon, eggs, egg and sausage casserole, bagels and cream cheese, sweet rolls, cookies, fruit and yogurt, deviled eggs, juice and coffee. A female deer was grazing on the grass outside the house.

It was a fun and entertaining Convention enjoyed by all!



Hollywood themed banquet decorations



Washington State Convention participants

Your Help Is Needed!

Add your support to our STARS initiative in helping military families! We are currently collecting resources for the toolkit for families and schools. Many of you are teachers and/or parents and you are aware of good books, resources, and community projects that support citizen warriors and their families! Please send your ideas to your **Area Director** or to **Tracey Ware** who will forward it to our planning group.

NEEDED:

- 1) Titles of books for children of any ages and parents (topics of separation, military life, resilience, courage, patriotism, service, sacrifice).
- 2) Examples of projects in your community's schools that support military families (Veteran's Day is coming...please look for ideas to share).
- 3) **VOLUNTEERS** to serve on our planning committee.

Next Newsletter: YEAR IN REVIEW

Help us meet the goal suggested by one of our faithful ROAL members, Barbara Jones, who wrote: "...the highlighting of club activities 'through the year' was a great idea. Next year, I hope we can have one from EACH month." If you have not already done so, please send pictures and information about project that you have embraced this past year (as a department, club or individual) to Christina Luke for our 2013 "Year in Review"!

In Memoriam

We are saddened to hear of the passing of, Mrs. Jeannette F. Hermann, who served as ROAL National President from 1999-2000. Among her many contributions, many of us remember the meticulous care that Jeannette took in recreating the Mardi Gras celebration during the New Orleans Convention.

Condolences to her husband, CDR Walter T. Herrmann, USN, her family and friends.

GREAT NEWS!

ROA has voted to expand membership eligibility to include enlisted reservist officers. As you recall, ROAL has already revised our By-Laws to include enlisted reservist members, pending action taken by ROA. Please begin plans to expand invitations to your upcoming events to include enlisted reservists who are eligible to join!! This is a great opportunity for ROAL to step forward in supporting ROA!

REMINDER

If you have not already done so, please send your updated ROAL Officers contact information to Tracey Ware at:
ROA Headquarters,
1 Constitution Ave., NE,
Washington DC 20002.



**ROAL National Headquarters
1 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-5618**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4, 2014

ROA STARS Gala
Andrew Mellon Auditorium, Washington, D.C.

March 22, 2014

R-Games: Military Athletic Competition

July 23-26, 2014

2014 ROA National Convention
Long Beach, California