



ROAL

Reserve Officers Association League of the United States

www.roa.org/roal

**National
Newsletter**

*

**Fall
2011**

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

Greetings to you and your family during this busy holiday season....and thank you for taking time to give support to those who are currently or previously have served our country in the military forces! This is the perfect time to demonstrate our commitment to "serving citizen warriors and their families within their communities" and it has been my distinct pleasure to observe, first-hand, how many of you are planning and implementing projects! My work requires that I do some traveling and it has been wonderful to make connections with ROAL members as they work and plan for events for fund-raisers, participate in sewing or collection of clothing and quilts, provide necessities for homeless veterans, volunteer to provide services at USO and Family Support events and generate interest for young folks to participate in ROTC and service programs for veterans. You are demonstrating that there is true value in building on traditions that you have created within your clubs and departments, where they exist.

As I was working with tangled cords of lights, yesterday, I began to think about how the lights could be a metaphor for ROAL clubs because some lit easily, some flickered and then connected and some needed more help. Perhaps it is the role of National ROAL to help connect the lights in an effort to illuminate the ROAL accomplishments at the club level. In fact, perhaps we could generate even more light by providing recognition to individuals and organizations in our communities who are doing great things to support our military reserves and all citizen warriors. As we are thinking about the incentives and awards that we give to each other, perhaps we should think about establishing an award that can be given, locally, to honor those who do the right thing when no one is looking. Recently, I stopped in Allentown to visit Nancy Pietrobon and, on her table was an award that she received from Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett. It was a "Voter Hall of Fame" award given to a citizen who has voted in every November election for at least 50 years. The inscription expressed gratitude for "lifelong commitment to democracy". This is a well-deserved award for Nancy and it spurred my thinking that we might generate interest, support, and perhaps increased ROAL membership if we invited local newspapers to cover our award occasion. We might even recognize national initiatives such as "Americas Promise Alliance" (Colin Powell) or "Joining Forces" (Michelle Obama and Jill Biden). Perhaps our version of connecting the dots between initiatives can result in connecting the lights that burn brightly in support of citizen warriors and their families within their communities!

Warmest wishes for the Blessings of this holiday season! May good health and happiness be yours in 2012! We hope you will join us at our convention next month! We promise bright lights!

With great gratitude,
Cathy

In this issue...

In Memoriam.....2
National Convention
Schedule.....2
ROAL Treasures.....3
Club News.....4

Frequently Asked Questions.....5
Thank You from DEF.....6
Resolutions.....6
Voting Information.....7
Voting Ballot.....7

In Memoriam Past ROAL Presidents

Mrs. Ruth Behlke, ROAL
Mrs. Herbert Behlke (Ruth) ROAL National President 1973-74
10626 W Bolivar Dr
Sun City, AZ 85351-2707

We are saddened to report that, during November, two Past Presidents of ROAL passed away. Ruth Behlke who served as ROAL National President from 1973-1974 passed away on November 6, 2011 in Sun City, Arizona. In addition to her support of ROAL and its mission, she was an artist and an active supporter of the Beau Arts, supporting the Columbus Museum of Art. The family has asked that memorial contributions be made to Crestview Presbyterian Church, 350 E. Tulane Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43202.

Mrs. Lorie Sabo, ROAL
Mrs. Thomas W. Sabo (Lorie) ROAL National President 1989-90

Mrs. Lorie Sabo passed away on November 25, 2011. Lorie served as ROAL National President from 1989-1990. Friends who knew her were inspired by her diligence and compassion for others. She was described as “a very smart lady with a heart as good as gold”. Her influence in serving others extended beyond her ROAL support and service. She was active in serving the Army and Family Support programs and was a member of the United States Army Reserve Command Family Advisory Council. Lorie was an educator whose leadership on school boards has spanned decades. She was currently serving on the of Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Her family has asked that memorial contributions be made to Recreational Group Therapy, Oak Lodge at the Batavia VA Medical Center, 222 Richmond Ave., Batavia, NY 14020.

ROAL Schedule for the 2012 National Security Symposium & National Convention*

Sunday, Jan. 29

10:00 am-12:00 pm—ROAL Past Presidents Meeting
1:00 pm-2:00 pm—ROAL Executive Board Meeting
2:30 pm-4:00 pm—ROAL Area Directors Strategic Planning Committee

Monday, Jan. 30

8:00-9:30 am—Opening Session ROA
10:00 am-12:00 pm—ROAL Meeting (Round Table Discussions)
6:00 pm-8:00 pm—Exhibit Hall open; Welcome Reception

Tuesday, Jan. 31

8:00 am-11:00 am—ROAL Business Meeting
12:00 pm—ROAL Luncheon at The Army and Navy Club

Wednesday, Feb. 1

9:30 am—Gallery of ROAL Activities – ROAL Suite
6:00 pm- 9:00 pm—ROA Presidents Reception

*Schedule of Activities and Details Subject to Change

ROAL Treasures

By Cathy Luke, ROAL President

During our 60th Anniversary celebration of ROAL, some of the discussion made reference to “The Silver.” This piqued my curiosity because some of my fondest childhood memories involved events where cookies and small sandwiches were served on silver trays and ladies in hats (and gloves?) sat at the ends of the serving table pouring coffee or tea for the guests as they came through the buffet line. I pictured this and imagined what “the silver” must look like....but I am ashamed to say that I had not visited the ROAL Suite at 1 Constitution Avenue for a first-hand look.

Last month, Tracey Ware and I made a visit to the ROAL Suite because we were informed that it would need to be used for office space and we wanted to make sure that the ROAL “presence” remained. I was overwhelmed to find that “The Silver,” (carefully preserved and beautifully displayed in a breakfront), rivaled silver that I have seen in the White House, in historic displays in our country, in European castles, and at Tiffany & Co. Not only is it valuable in its own right, it has tremendous value in the stories it represents because most pieces are monogrammed with names and dates in recognition of the service of ROAL members and leaders. When we looked more closely, we found a hand-written inventory of the pieces and in some cases there are letters that describe the deeds that generated the gift.

We are making plans to have some of the silver on display (or in use) during the 2012 convention. As we move ahead with plans for the future, we may find new ways to recognize accomplishments but it is essential that we retain some traditions for celebrations....and that we honor those who created an environment where ROAL members could build and nurture the relationships that inspire us to work together for a common mission!



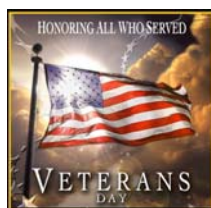
Potential members in our midst?

By Cathy Luke, ROAL President

School District websites may be a source for potential members in our communities. Consider this scenario:

A Veterans Day commemoration was highlighted on the website of South Park Public Schools in Pennsylvania. The teacher who planned the event is the granddaughter of a veteran and her respect for the military inspired her to create a gratitude project. School-wide, students interviewed a veteran family member and wrote a thank you to them. These letters along with informational posters from each of the U.S. wars and conflicts were displayed in a red, white, and blue festooned hallway. Veterans were invited to the school for breakfast and a short program after which they were escorted by students through the hallway of gratitude.

If Resolution 11-02 is passed, this teacher will be eligible for ROAL membership...and she is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to join!



Club News

Philadelphia Club Updates

By Betty J. Doty

We are moving ahead at break-neck speed to make this year one of our very best, starting with our Holiday Luncheon. The "tombolas" will be bigger and better than last year. Also, we will be returning to an ever-population location, the Newtown grill. You can expect to be delighted with good food, great service, and of course you know to anticipate great fellowship. Santa is making his list and will be there, too! Mark your calendars now for the luncheon date on Tuesday, December 6th and get those reservations early.

As you know, ROAL is serving citizen warriors and their families within our own communities. Your contributions and the income derived from our tombolas are a major part of our support to organizations which include Sew Much comfort, the USA and Veterans Hospitals/Homes and others, that are so important not only for physical needs, but are essential to build morale and a sense of well-being for our troops and their families.

Remember our military and their families in your prayers; they are the best and the brightest, a beacon which shows the entire world that America is still here, steadfast and true in our resolve to be free.

Have you thanked those who serve and the loyal family that maintains a home and awaits their return? May God bless America and all of you.



Update from Northern Florida

By Mary Ann Severs

Northwest Florida ROAL works with Sew Much Comfort by sewing with a group of SMC volunteers every month remaking clothes for the wounded military in hospitals. We also bring clothes home to sew during each month as needed. We have also encouraged friends other than our members to join us and each month we have a good group joining us in our sewing. Our monetary donations go mainly to this organization.

Update from California

By Wendy Kazanjian

Our Club has been involved with **Project Handclasp**. This is a U.S. Navy program that receives, collects and consolidates, and stores humanitarian, educational, and goodwill material for transportation on naval vessels. The materials are then distributed by U.S. Navy and Marines on behalf of American citizens to people in need overseas.

Specifically, we participated in "**Operation Backpack**." We purchased 4 backpacks and school supplies--pencils, pens, paper, rulers, markers, crayons, etc. The backpacks were filled with these supplies and we worked with a local church group that took the backpacks to a San Diego facility to be loaded onto the ships. The backpacks were sent to many countries where children have nothing--their pencils and paper are a stick and dirt.

We encouraged members to donate to this endeavor, and several did, so that our treasury for charitable causes was not depleted.



Your Questions, Answered

What happened with follow-through on resolutions from the 2011 ROAL Convention?

Task Groups met during the Tempe, Arizona meeting in June and communication has taken place throughout the year via email, conference calls, telephone conversations and US mail. Updates include:

- The Strategic Planning Committee has drafted a plan for implementing the Voting Resolution No. 11-02. (See Page 6)
- Some action has been taken to use the website and newsletters as venues for communicating information and recognizing accomplishments of ROAL clubs and members. There is some discussion regarding whether our recognitions should expand to community groups/organizations (see Page 4)
- Credentials for the 2012 convention will be validated through a current membership list at the door for ROAL business meetings.
- Committee functions have been combined for By-Laws/Resolutions and Finance areas.
- Discussions regarding Department role and function have continued throughout the year and it is proposed that we “grandfather” existing departments that work well, that we encourage departments to declare themselves “inactive” rather than dissolve, and that we continue to explore a new structure that would possibly follow the regions of the Area Directors.
- Assignment of Members-At-Large to clubs has not been accomplished at this time. This will be a topic for exploration during our roundtable discussions.

Who will be delegates for the 2010 ROAL Symposium/Convention?

All members who register for the ROAL National Convention/Symposium will be designated as delegates and each will be eligible to vote during meetings in accordance with One-Member, One-Vote. Once current membership is validated, a “Delegate” ribbon will be issued.

How will voting take place during 2012?

There will be three times when voting will take place during this year of transition.

First: You are asked to complete the enclosed ballot in accordance with Phase One in implementing One-Member, One-Vote. **BALLOTS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO CHERYL CARATHERS NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2012.** The results of this voting will be announced during the 2012 National ROAL Convention/Symposium

Second: Resolutions drafted during the 2012 working session will be voted on by convention delegates during the General Session(s).

Third: All resolutions will be communicated to the General Membership in a Convention newsletter to be mailed (target date February 15, 2012). The deadline for voting will be March 15, 2012 and the combined votes from convention and the mailing will determine whether or not a resolution passes. The results will be communicated in a Spring Newsletter to all members. It should be noted that no response will be considered to be affirmation of the proposal or resolution.

Are there ideas for future membership?

Membership will continue to be a topic for exploration and creative solutions. Two resolutions regarding membership are included in this newsletter. Other ideas will be entertained during the roundtable discussions at the convention. Please communicate your ideas to Lt. Colonel Rick Riccardi who is chairing this task group.

Where do we stand with ROAL By-Laws Amendments?

Anne Groskreutz and her committee have been working hard to make changes to the ROAL By-Laws in accordance with the discussions of ROAL leadership, the discussions during conventions and meetings and the resolutions passed during the past conventions. These drafts are posted on the website and if you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact Tracey Ware at ROAL Headquarters. The revised By-Laws will be discussed as part of the round table discussions and plans are to vote on them during convention and post convention ballots.

What did we find out from the phone tree calls?

The Area Directors are reporting that their phone calls have affirmed that the majority of our addresses are correct.

The lack of response to mailings and queries is more a function of the busy schedules, health conditions and aging of many members than it is a lack of interest or support. What we are finding is that we have many members whose support for ROAL continues in spirit and their continued membership but their personal situations do not allow for regular meeting attendance. We need to formalize a phone-supported communication (buddy system) so that we can be certain that all members are kept informed of projects and initiatives of ROAL.

Thanks for ROAL Support for the Defense Education Forum (DEF)

By Robert Feidler

Over the years, ROAL has been a staunch supporter of the Defense Education Forum of ROA. We still regularly receive gifts from various Departments and Clubs, often in memory of an ROAL member. We most appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity in continuing to support the educational efforts of DEF.

Over the past year DEF has presented about forty programs both in the Washington DC area and across the country. This year we have given programs in Florida, Texas, Colorado, and Pennsylvania and at all these locations we have met ROAL members and benefited from their input. Our programs include both multi-day programs like the Junior Officer Professional Development Seminars especially designed to bring leadership programs to our younger officers and programs that cover a day or a portion of a day. Recently we had former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld join us at the Minuteman Memorial Building where he gave an inspiring talk, took questions, and conducted a book signing complete with photos with the attendees. At one point, a young man in the audience in stating who he was, indicated he went to the same high school as the Secretary. Spontaneously, the Secretary burst into song and sang his high school fight song! So much for the staid image of this national figure!

Just last week we did a program with the Foreign Policy Research Institute of Philadelphia in which a dozen leading scholars and commentators discussed China and various threats and concerns it posed to the Pacific region. We will collaborate with the United States Institute of Peace for a multi-month breakfast series on national security issues beginning in January and continue our multi-year relationship with George Mason University to deliver programs related to stability and reconstruction operations – key areas for the 21st century military and Reserve Components.

On behalf of DEF, I extend warmest greetings to you for the Holiday Season! It has been a pleasure working with President Luke and I look forward to joining you for one of the ROAL sessions at the upcoming National Security Symposium/annual meeting at the end of January in Washington. If I can ever be of assistance to any of your Departments or Clubs, it would be my pleasure. Again, thank you for your ongoing organizational and individual support. If I can answer any questions you might have about giving/memorialization opportunities, please feel free to contact me directly at 202 646 7717.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolution No. 11-01

Membership Eligibility

WHEREAS, Membership in ROAL continues to decline due in large part to the demographics (age) of our group

WHEREAS, There are some potential members who would join immediately and delaying their membership until their family member becomes an ROA member may result in loss of interest

WHEREAS, ROA membership may be increased by engaging family members in ROAL as an introduction to the organization, its mission and benefits

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ROAL By-Laws be amended to read “eligible to be a member of ROA” rather than requiring current membership.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolution No. 11-02

Reserve Enlisted Membership

WHEREAS, ROA has officially approved the concept of changing the organization membership eligibility to include enlisted members of the Reserves

WHEREAS, The projects and initiatives of ROAL currently support all citizen warriors and their families within our communities,

WHEREAS, ROA membership may be increased by engaging family members in ROAL as an introduction to the organization, its mission and benefits

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ROAL By-Laws be amended to include those eligible for REA membership following the same criteria as is currently written in ROAL bylaws for family status.

Election Information

One Member-One Vote

By Cathy Luke, ROAL National President

It's here ... Enclosed in this newsletter is the "official" voting ballot. There will be a few members from the Executive Board and the Strategic Planning Committee that will be



using the software program to cast their votes as a trial basis before extending it to ROAL members with internet access in the future.

The process is simple ... mail your ballot to Cheryl Carathers by the due date. Validation of members and the tallying of ballots (using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet) will be done.

A demo of this software program will be given at the 2012 ROAL National Convention.

Many thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee (Teri Barnes; Lori Campbell; Cheryl Carathers, co-chairman; Andy Chumney; Margie Davenport; Betty Doty; and Toni Livingston, co-chairman) for all their hard work in making the One Member-One Vote a reality.

ROAL Ballot

"Serving citizen warriors and their families within their communities"

NAME _____ STATE _____ CLUB/DEPT _____ MEMBER-AT-LARGE _____
For Credential Verification Only (Please check)

Officers 2012-2013

	Name	Circle one		WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President	Catherine Luke	YES	NO	
1 st Vice President	Phyllis Sellen	YES	NO	
2 ND Vice President		YES	NO	
Treasurer	Barbara Stoddard	YES	NO	
Chaplain	Norma Marcotti	YES	NO	
Northeastern Area Director	Jane Lazo	YES	NO	
Southeastern Area Director		YES	NO	
Western Area Director	Gaye Palmer	YES	NO	
Middle America Area Director	Shirley Mendralski	YES	NO	

Resolutions

Resolution No.	Resolution Name	Circle one	
2011-01	Membership Eligibility	YES For	NO Against
2011-02	REA Membership Eligibility	YES For	NO Against

Mail completed ballot no later than XX-XX-XXXX to:

**Cheryl Carathers
 10 N Star Rd.
 Allen, TX 75002-7853**



**ROAL National Headquarters
1 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-5624**

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**2012 ROA National Security Symposium,
Reserve Component Expo & National Convention**
January 29 - February 1, 2012
Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC



2012 ROA Leaders Conference
July 13-14, 2012
Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza, Kansas city, MO
(Group rate of \$99/night)

More information will be posted when available