



ROAL

Reserve Officers Association League of the United States

www.roa.org/roal

**National
Newsletter
*
Spring
2012**

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

When we left Washington, D.C. after the convention, one of the goals we set for ourselves was to maintain/expand the spirit and momentum that we achieved during the 2012 Symposium! The speakers were inspirational, starting with General Petraeus who spoke with great appreciation for the changes faced by reservists and their families. (His speech is available on <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/304018-1>.) Our group was able to attend many of the informative speeches from military leaders and members of Congress that were part of the ROA program agenda and we participated in the social activities planned. The weather cooperated and many of the ROAL members attending commented that they appreciated the balance among time for business, new information and relationship/network building! THANK YOU to all who made this a successful convention, whether you were able to attend or not, because much work went into the planning prior to the 4 days in Washington, D.C.! Thanks to all of you who voted prior to the convention and to all of you who discussed the ROAL changes at your club level, providing us with information. We have made a great start...the next steps...and maintaining the momentum...are our challenges because we all have many roles that we are playing with jobs, families and with service within our communities! I fit this category and, without belaboring apologies, I do regret that this newsletter has not followed immediately on the heels of the convention as we had promised!

This newsletter contains information from the convention and we are especially grateful to ROAL National Secretary, Toni Livingston, for her meticulous minutes from the convention meetings! These are posted in entirety on the ROAL website and they are available to be mailed to clubs at your request. (They are too lengthy to include in this document, but the copy for the vast majority of what you will read in this newsletter come directly from her work!) Also, hearty thanks to Past President Teri Barnes for sharing the great pictures that she took at the convention! We are now asking you to share in the follow-through from the convention by sharing in the voting on two resolutions that will help us to make ours an organization that is flat rather than hierarchical. We recognize that our strength is at the club level...and I have been reminded of that these past weeks as our club in Western Massachusetts has embarked on a project to assist with providing food and fundraising for the community workers as they build a new home for a local Afghanistan soldier, Sgt. Bouchard, who is an amputee. The organization, Homes for our Troops, has built homes in 37 states...and we will share more information in our next newsletter. Becoming involved with this initiative has energized our group...and we are networking with so many like-minded members of our community! In fact, Past President Rick Riccardi and I had a great discussion last week and we decided to try to partner our ROAL groups and support each other in our local projects. (More about that in the next newsletter, too!)

Thank you for your support, your energy, your commitment and thank you for your confidence in electing our group for a second term as National Officers! We are eager to continue the momentum with YOUR HELP!

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Roundtable Discussion Results

On Monday morning, we followed the roundtable discussion format that had been successful in previous conventions. Three key areas were identified as topics for discussion and those in attendance we asked to participate in one of three groups. The groups were: Communications led by Rick Riccardi (addressing issues relating to our communications and how we can promote better awareness in our communities); Awards and Incentives led by Toni Livingston (how are we going to get noticed? Are there new ways to get noticed within our organization and ways to get recognized within our communities- recruitment and retention of members?); and Governance led by Anne Groskreutz (with 18 months to the next meeting, are there ways to create a flatter organization which is more reflective of club level leadership?). Each group was asked to brainstorm responses to the prompt questions, establish a timeline for action and decide/draft a recommendation or possible resolution to be voted on. Each group had a leader and a recorder. It was explained that the results from these groups will represent the goals for 2012. Time allocated for the roundtable groups was less than an hour.

Roundtable Group Results

Awards and Incentives – Nancy Case reported that the group approached discussions from external and internal avenues. External discussions included that information on ROAL (member or nationally) needs to get published in ROA publications and in local newspapers. There was a suggestion that we create an award for local citizens who are helping military (piggyback on VFW, American Vets, MOAA, etc.). Another idea would be to recognize schools with a plaque for Veterans Day programs or essay contests.

Internal discussions included creating a downloadable certificate (with clusters – one, two, etc.) or plaque with letter of appreciation for recognizing member longevity (5 year increments versus just waiting until 25 years). Also, it was suggested that we create a “spotlight interview” section in each newsletter for a member from each different area. Another idea was to do “raffles” throughout the convention in order to sponsor a ROAL member to the next National Convention (pay for registration) with an incentive (\$25.00 for a \$5.00 ticket) that if a non-ROAL member won, they could give to their ROAL friend or a neighbor for winning (transferable prize).

Communications – Rick Riccardi reported that their group focused on two issues (improve communications with current members and develop a process to upgrade e-mail addresses and introduce members to Skype). Also the group felt that ROAL might be able to “tap” into the marketing research group that ROA has engaged to help with their membership.

Governance – Anne Groskreutz reported that significant work has been done on the new bylaws, but changes are still coming from ROA that could affect ROAL and that work will need to continue. The group discussed the need to review the bylaws as they pertain to requirements of clubs and departments because today three clubs that make a department may not be a viable option. The goal is to not discourage departments where less than three clubs exist nor does the group want members to feel that they need to quit the organization because the requirements are not met. An idea was to create/establish an “internet” type group connection for those that do have computers where ideas can be shared for serving reservists and their families within their communities. This could be done within a department or area led by their area director. This led to discussions on expanding the area directors to two year terms with two people alternating the years (more responsibility, contacting more people, etc.). This would create a seamless transition when one term ends and another begins.



ROAL Booth



Toni Livingston, Barb Stoddard, Anne Groskreutz, Bev Merrilees, Gay Kayye, Teri Barnes

The ROAL Booth was a huge success! Bev Merrilees provided great leadership for organizing this event and her suggestion to concentrate our energies on Monday night, only, was superb. By scheduling the ROAL volunteers to work in short shifts, Bev made it an evening that was both productive and fun. Plus, this plan allowed all ROAL members to participate in other activities during the remainder of the convention and we were thrilled at the great response. More than \$600 was raised and the donations from clubs and departments were fantastic! The

prizes included gift cards (for Home Depot, Marriott, restaurants, etc.), gift baskets, hand-crafted gifts, and electronic items (kindle and picture scanner). In addition, \$155 was raised from the giveaway prize.

Deborah Halver-Hansen came up with a great fundraising idea for ROAL. She offered to spearhead an initiative to sell patriotic jewelry designed by a Virginia artist. Not only did she sell the jewelry at the ROAL booth, she also made it available for sale during the luncheon and ROAL reception. More than \$300 was raised from the jewelry sales and this project has potential to be an ongoing fundraiser. Currently, Deborah is working on the possibility of having a specially designed ROAL pin available for sale.

The group voted to equally divide the donations among Sew Much Comfort, Defense Education Fund, Our Military Kids, Wounded Warriors, Fisher House and Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all for your generosity and support!

Bob Feidler, Director of DEF Addresses Group

We were pleased to have a guest speaker on Tuesday. Lt. Col. Bob Feidler, ROA Director, Reserve Officers Association Strategic Defense Education began his remarks by thanking ROAL for their deep support assisting in education programs. He went on to and to give a quick summary of what goes on at DEF.

He explained that DEF (Defense Education Forum) is ROA's 501(c)(3) education fund. Approximately 40 to 50 programs are presented around Washington, D.C. and across the USA. These programs include informational presentations on issues relating to national defense, current information on legislation, book talks (recently former Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, spoke on his new book). The ROA website has a listing of current and past programs. It is possible for the wide range of programs to be offered because they are done in partnership firms, institutions and non-profit organizations. Col. Feidler explained that they are in the process of making some of the programs available online through webinars and these would be excellent resources for club meetings. Also, any of the power point presentations that the ROA staff produces



LTC Bob Feidler and Cathy Luke

would be available for use at our meetings. A special patriotic and motivational DVD was created for use during the convention and copies of this are available from Tracey Ware at ROA headquarters. This also would be a great resource for use at a ROAL meeting.

Col. Feidler also gave preliminary information on the upcoming *Rethinking Defense: Odyssey at Sea* voyage scheduled for August 18-22, 2012 from Boston, MA to Halifax Nova Scotia. ROA has partnered with the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) and the University of Virginia to host this trip. (See ROA website.)

Convention Recap

Election Results- Electronic Voting

Election Results – Cathy Luke asked Toni Livingston to report on the voting results (ballots mailed and ballots received at the ROAL National Convention). Toni Livingston thanked Cheryl Carathers (unable to attend the convention) for her role as the Election Official. Cheryl received mailed ballots, validated members and prepared a composite of the results to which Toni Livingston added the results of the ballots received at the national convention. Also thanked were the members of the Strategic Planning Committee (those in attendance were Teri Barnes, Betty Doty and Andy Chumney) for the design of the ballot and research of the voting software tool (Lori Campbell and Andy Chumney). Members who voted represented 9.6% of the ROAL membership. The results were:

Election of Officers for 2012-2013

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Shirley Mendralski, Phyllis Sellen, Gaye Palmer, Gay Kayye, Cathy Luke, Norma Marcotti, Barb Stoddard, Linda Veres

The Voting Continues

In the Fall, 2011 ROAL newsletter, you were asked to complete ballots in implementation of the one-member-one-vote resolution. At that time, it was explained that we would also ask for your vote on any new resolutions that were presented at the National Convention. The following resolutions were presented as motions during the convention and the convention voting will combine the responses of conference attendees with the votes that you submit by emailing your response to Cheryl Carathers at 2maccar5@gmail.com or mailing the ballot below. Since this is our first year in implementing this procedure, we ask you for your cooperation in responding no later than June 1, 2012. In the future, we will use Election Buddy for our voting.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolution No. 12-01

Expansion of Executive Board to Include Additional Area Directors

WHEREAS, The Governance Roundtable group discussed the emerging role for Area Directors as communicators between local clubs and national and there would be an advantage in having two directors from each region to share this work. If each of the four areas had two directors, each serving 2-year (staggered) terms. there would be an easy transfer of knowledge and information as an experienced director worked with the new director.

WHEREAS, A mechanism is needed for ROAL in order to address business issues on a timely basis, given the low attendance at national conventions and the 18-month time-span between 2012 and 2013 conventions. Expanding the Executive Board to have greater representation in order to aid the decision-making process would be a prudent move. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the ROAL By-Laws be amended to add a second area director for each area on an alternating year basis for a two year term.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolution No. 12-02

Expansion of Executive Board to Include Strategic Planning Committee Chairperson

WHEREAS. There is a benefit in having direct communication between the Strategic Planning Committee and the Executive Board in making plans and implementing change for the future of ROAL.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ROAL By-Laws be amended to include the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee as a member of the Executive Board.

ROAL Ballot

“Serving citizen warriors and their families within their communities”

NAME _____ STATE _____ CLUB/DEPT__ MEMBER-AT-LARGE__

For Credential Verification Only

(Please check)

Resolutions

Motion Vote

Resolution No.	Resolution Name	Yes	No
12-01	Expand Executive Board to Include an Additional Area Director for each of the four Regions		
12-02	Expand Executive Board to Include Chairperson of SPC		

Mail completed ballot no later than 01 June 2012 to:

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

Demo



Andy Chumney conducted a powerful PowerPoint presentation of Andy was able to capture screen images of how the tool worked in case connectivity was not available in the meeting room. This software tool does support paper ballots. Andy covered how this tool works, its flexibilities and the administrator functions (set-up by one of our own). The tool is web-based, secure and the URL is easily found.

Each voter will have a voter pin number (preventing double voting). The tool has an excellent tutorial for the administrator. The tool can be easily deployed. The cost is based on the number of voters (\$99 per voting session for this size group). Andy successfully answered questions from the floor. Cathy Luke thanked Andy and suggested that this tool be considered for getting some of the business done especially with the 18 month timeframe to the next convention.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:

When you meet with your clubs, it would be great if you would please discuss the ideas that were generated in the roundtable discussions. It would be wonderful if your group could volunteer to take the initiative for trying out one of the suggestions in your community...and giving us feedback and recommendations. Please send your ideas to Tracey Ware and we will address them during our work session in Kansas City. Better still, we hope you will be able to join us for a work session followed by a social afternoon on Saturday, July 14!!

Luncheon Meeting and Speaker

On Tuesday afternoon, First Vice President, Phyllis Sellen, made arrangements for us to we enjoy a wonderful ROAL luncheon at the Army and Navy Club. Not only did she arrange for an elegant luncheon in this historic club, she also made arrangements for us to hear an informative address from Lt. Colonel Barbara Manouse, a Reserve Air Force Officer who spoke with us about the impact of deployments on military families. Colonel Manouse



Lt. Col. Barbara Manouse



Jane Brie, Shirley Mendralski, Bev Merrilees, Patricia MacDonald, Meredith Austin, Capt. Alan Brier, Linda Veres, Gaye Palmer



Betty Lehman, Teri Barnes, Betty Doty, COL Gordon Palmer, Barb Stoddard, Glennie Millard



Joan Sutton, LTC Rick Riccardi, Jane Lazo, Andy Chumney, Nancy Case, COL John Halver, Diane Harmon, Deborah Halver-Hanson

shared that she was in the unique situation of completing her own deployment(s) as a wife and mother and, at the same time she was commanding of troops who were completing multiple deployments.

She shared that deployment of a family member can be a very emotional and difficult time for many families. She said that the preparations for deployment include talking to children and extended family members and doing practical things like reviewing financial, legal, and child care (or elder care) provision details.

Colonel Manouse discussed a checklist that she shares with her team before they are deployed. Some of the items on it include: Wills, Power of Attorney, names on the checking account and savings account, and child care issues. She stated these issues have to be done prior to deployment, it does not matter if it is the first deployment, or the third.

Emotionally, she said that there are stages to prepare for that include anger, denial, fear and acceptance. She proposed several steps that should be part of the preparations and she stressed that having a communication plan in place is essential. Colonel Manouse also shared an interesting study that she is conducting in her current studies at Fort McNair.

In addition, we were honored to have Mrs. Margaret Davis, attend our luncheon. Mrs. Davis is the wife of Major General Drew Davis, ROA Executive Director, and she informally shared a wealth of professional information on strategies for fundraising, particularly for the education of reservists and their families and we look forward to more conversations with her in the future.

We are grateful to Phyllis and her husband, Lt. Colonel William Sellen, for sponsoring a memorable afternoon for our group.



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