



# ROAL

Reserve Officers Association League of the United States

[www.roa.org/roal](http://www.roa.org/roal)

**National  
Newsletter  
\*  
Winter  
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

Happy 2013! May this be a year unequalled in effectively communicating our support and gratitude to our citizen warriors and their families! The needs in our communities are great...and we are in a position to help...as individual ROAL members as well as clubs!

We have a national organizational structure in place...we have a rich history...we have the ability to use our personal talents and connections to help in new ways. BUT...are we capturing these opportunities? Yes, our membership is declining. Phyllis Sellen, First Vice President, and the Area Directors have taken action to confirm accuracy of our database and, when I met with Tracey Ware at National ROA Headquarters last week, she confirmed that our current membership is 603.

Many of you remember a time when we had several thousand members...but, as is evidenced in this newsletter, the impact of ROAL in many communities is significant now and it has potential to become much greater.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- invite one person to join in a project...whether they are eligible for membership or not, they will help us achieve our goals...and often lead us to eligible members
- seek out other organizations that are focusing on projects for support of citizen warriors and their families; lend ROAL's support in action and in name
- communicate good wishes through a phone call or note to ROAL members who are involved in a project that you support. Even if it is not possible to be involved, physically, your words of encouragement may just be what it takes to retain and expand good projects.

As you read the "Year in Review" in this newsletter, it is our hope that you will be energized and think... "that's something we could do in our area". We hope that you will think of things that you have done, or things you plan to do...and take the time to communicate them with us!!! By sharing our successes, we can help strengthen and support military families throughout the country.

YOU can make a difference. In many clubs, it is one person or family that mobilizes others for action. In the year ahead, let's each strive to be that one person and create one new project or reach out to one new person. Together, at over 600 strong, we still can and will make a big difference in the lives of others.

With deep appreciation for your support!  
Cathy Luke

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THE ROA  
**STARS**  
FOUNDATION  
STANDING TOGETHER FOR  
AMERICA'S RESERVISTS

Last February, the Reserve Officers Association approved the concept of incorporating the STARS Foundation. Standing Together for America's Reservists is a 501c(3) not-for-profit foundation that :

- is member based (for both corporate and individual memberships)
- supports ROA (financially, through dues and donations, programmatically and educationally)
- builds on current STARS Partners Corporate program
- expands ROA-affiliated membership opportunity to the universe of patriots
- may not lobby.

The ROA STARS Foundation Mission:

*The ROA STARS Foundation is a membership organization of patriotic individuals and corporations who Stand Together for America's Reservists. The foundation supports the work of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States to enhance the security of the nation by sustaining a strong Reserve force and supporting the citizen warriors and their families who volunteer to serve and sacrifice for our country...in training, on the battlefield, in the workplace and at home. The ROA STARS Foundation accomplishes this through philanthropy, professional military awards, top-level educational forums, pro bono legal information, scholarships and tools for...*

Benefits include

- charitable deduction on eligible contributions
  - broader fundraising appeal (estate giving, major campaigns, corporate sponsorships)
  - simplified governance, while maintaining control (appointment of board)
- potential DC Property Tax benefits

### ***In Memoriam***

**Mrs. Rosalinda Anheta, Brookfield, WI**  
**Mrs. Ardis Caswell, Hillsdale, MI**  
**Mrs. Rose Dell'elce, Brighton, MA**  
**Elizabeth H. Hutchinson, West Palm Beach, FL**  
**Mrs. Jocelyn Keagy, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Mrs. Jewel C. McDowell, Warner Rogins, GA**  
**Mrs. Mary Miller, Durham, NC**  
**Mrs. Dorothy Beckett Nolan, Saint George, UT**  
**Mr. John Stiles, Galveston, TX**  
**Mr. Raymond Townsend, Landenberg, PA**  
**Mrs. Marie Tutuska, Buffalo, NY**

## A Special Gallery: Contributors to our Rich ROAL Legacy

Nancy Pietrobon, Past ROAL National President, is welcomed by Betty Lehman, Department of Pennsylvania President at the December 4, 2012 ROAL luncheon held in the Philadelphia area.

Nancy continues to improve in her mobility. Her wit and wise counsel remain unsurpassed and all who know her will be pleased to see her smile and enthusiastic support for ROAL!



Thelma Wilkie, President of Triangle ROAL Club, shared the picture of Dimney Lasalla, Charter Member of the Triangle club, taken at her home during a holiday visit with her. Thelma shared that, despite the fact that her health prevents her from attending meetings, Dimney remains a loyal member of their club. The Club wished Dimney a Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

### Deep Dive: ROAL Members Participate with ROA in Brainstorming Activity

by Andy Chumney, ROAL National Secretary

There were 5 ROAL attendees who participated in the ROA Deep Dive activity held on 12 July, Thursday. The Deep Dive was an effort by ROA to brainstorm and deep dive into high level issues around the ROA organization. The meeting was held to look at ways to improve ROA efficiency and communications to members.

Three main questions were posed at the ROA Deep Dive

1. Organization strength
2. Membership
3. Finances

As we looked into each of these 3 Deep Dive questions, the report out follows:

1. Organization Strength- Attended by Anne Groskreutz and Meredith Austin
  - a. Looked at organization branding- mission, vision.
  - b. Strength of the organization
  - c. Conclusion- the mission statement
    - i. On attention and focus on membership
    - ii. ( note That ROAL will look at 3 prime areas)  
Form a group- to look at our ROAL structure  
Focus on – to ensure the communications between ROAL local and national leadership. Really, to understand the roll of the ROAL area directors and how they blend the communications and needs of the individual members (non chapter connected) to the national ROAL strategy awareness.
2. Membership – Attended by Gay Kayye and Beverly Merrilees
  - a. 3 Main items covered:
    - i. Find out from the drilling reserves- What is in it for us to join ROAL?
    - ii. Improve the relationships between and with the Service Chiefs
    - iii. Look for and encourage the younger reserve members  
Gay's insights: that National ROA- ROAL- both groups should promote more of their respective groups- more proactive- more aggressive.

*Continued on page 7.*

### Subscription to THE OFFICER MAGAZINE

ROA has been undergoing many changes and one of them suspended publication of *The Officer* magazine in favor of newsletters and online communications. Now, *The Officer* Magazine has returned.

As ROAL members, we do not automatically receive this publication, but if you are interested in subscribing, it is available to ROAL members for \$20 per year. (Regular subscription rate is \$40 per year).

Make check payable to Reserve Officers Association and mail to: ROA, 1 Constitution Ave. NE, Washington DC 20002.

# 2012: Year in Review

## January

With the leadership of Bev Merrilles, Convention Booth Chairperson, raises \$600 and other ticket sales brought in \$155. The combined \$755 was donated to Sew Much Comfort, Defense Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Wounded Warriors, Fisher House and Our Military Kids. Roundtable discussions (Awards and Incentives, Communications and Governance) were held. Follow-up included motion to consider a by-laws amendment adding a second area director for each area on an alternating year basis for a two-year term because of increased responsibilities of area directors and associated issues. This motion passed both during the convention and in the post-conference voting solicited from all members following the convention.

## February

Phyllis Sellen, ROAL National First Vice President, together with Area Directors, launches initiative to extend personal appreciation for continued support of ROAL members. Continued attempts continue to confirm contact information by making telephone contact from the current database.

## March

Western MA ROAL Club spearheads ongoing collection of donations for Soldier On, a program that provides temporary housing and job skills development for homeless veterans. This year's focus for the group has been on the facility for homeless female vets as they transition to homes of their own.



## April

Triangle Club follows up on membership initiative which has been ongoing for the past year. The communication strategies have included mail, email, through personal phone calls, and invitations to social events of the club. The content of their membership communications has included:

- benefits of membership
- how ROAL supports ROA interests and needs of the Reserve community both in the Triangle area and beyond
- the camaraderie that can be enjoyed with fellow members
- Triangle ROAL's support of Fisher House on Fort Bragg and the USO of North Carolina's center at RDU airport

Recently, they added another strategy which involved attending the meeting of deployed reservists upon their return home.

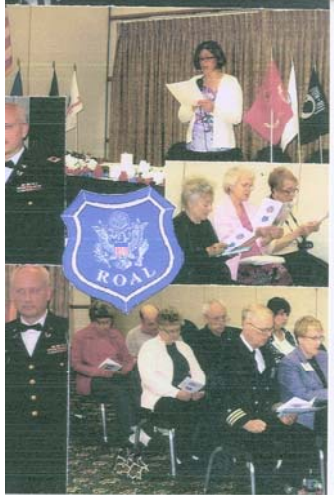
## May



MA ROAL Club partners with community volunteers to donate and serve breakfast for more than 100 professional trade volunteers who gathered to build a custom home for veteran who lost his leg in Iraq. Four ROAL members shopped and planned, but 15 "friends of ROAL," and several National Honor Society students (gaining community service hours) assisted in the preparation and assembly line to put together the burritos and fruit served... meeting at 5:00 AM in a local church kitchen. Homes for Our Troops [www.homesforourtroops.org](http://www.homesforourtroops.org) welcomes organizations to support their efforts in this way.

# 2012: Year in Review

## June



Department of Ohio ROA and ROAL holds convention at Maumee Lodge near Toledo, Ohio. A fundraiser proceeds are donated to Fisher House [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org) and National Guard Ohio Family Support Services.

## July

ROAL Leaders meeting is held in Kansas City, Missouri. Several members participate in Deep Dive planning (see article, p. 3) and the 8 members of the ROAL Executive Board attending met to review action taken to date, following up from the National Convention and action plans were drafted to:

- follow through with Area Director position; identification of duties and soliciting potential candidates
- focus on communication, specifically the website and ROAL brochure
- provide hi-lights of club action
- hold regular ROAL telecom meetings of Executive Board
- submit reaction/changes to Anne Groskreutz regarding By-Laws revisions and
- engage in planning for next national convention (August 2013).

## August

Department of Massachusetts Reserve Officers Association, Reserve Officers Association League and Reserve Enlisted Association solicit membership at Westover Air Show

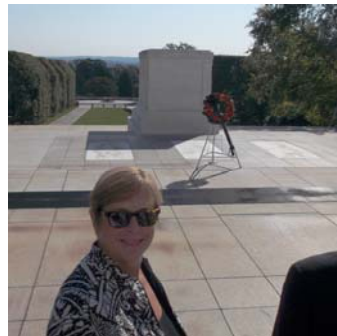
- List of more than 65 eligible members was generated from personal interactions; follow-up is continuing through invitations to social events and informational seminars and meetings



## September

ROA votes to create STARS Foundation (see article, p. 2) during ROA Executive Committee meeting held in Washington D.C. During this meeting, a special visit was made to Arlington Cemetery to hear about the action taken, over a short period of time, to address critical issues and utilize technology to improve communication with families, including a revised website [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil).

Meredith Austin, ROAL Georgia Department, is pictured during a special wreath laying by ROA Officers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



# 2012: Year in Review

## October

The Triangle ROAL Club of North Carolina meets together with ROA for an annual picnic held at the home of Admiral Paul and Gay Kayye. Guest speaker for this event is Captain Marshall Hansen, Director, Legislative and Military of ROA.



One of the major projects (pictured above) of the Triangle Club is their work with the USO –RDU Center. In addition to monetary donations, they donate their time, volunteering extra hours to support the troops and families. New recruits are greeted and assistance is provided as they travel to their training stations. They are provided with food and care packages to carry on the busses with them enroute to their new assignments. The USO-RDU staff and volunteers served over 75,000 military and their families outside the center and over 20,000 inside the center.

## November

STARS foundation update is provided to ROAL Executive Board by Southeastern Area Director, Gay Kayye, whose husband, ROA Past President, Admiral Paul Kayye, is chairing the Foundation Board. Discussions of the ROAL Executive Board advance regarding the potential work of our group with STARS, particularly in support of reservist families.

## December

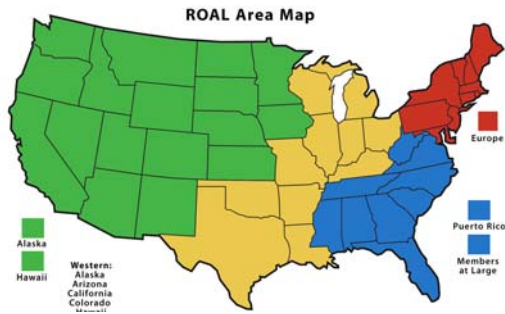
Philadelphia ROAL Club holds annual luncheon and bazaar. The 2012 event raises \$2234 and proceeds will benefit the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, JROTC, Wounded Warriors, USO Philadelphia Airport, Sew Much Comfort and SE Pennsylvania Veterans Home. Although this event is held in early December, Betty Doty, her daughter, Susan, and their committee work throughout the year to gather donations for their themed baskets and the event is attended, annually, by community supporters as well as ROAL members from other Pennsylvania clubs.



Send your plans for 2013 to [christinaluke@gmail.com](mailto:christinaluke@gmail.com)!



## AREA DIRECTORS...A Vital Role for ROAL's Communication



**Meet 2 of the 4 Area Directors!**

### **Gay Kayye: Southeastern (Blue)**

**Education:** Cabarrus Memorial Hospital School of Nursing- Registered Nurse  
**University of NC-** Family Nurse Practitioner (retired)

### **Volunteer Work:**

Wake County Master Gardener  
 ROAL Support  
 Wake County Republican Womens Club

### **Family Information:**

Married to Radm.Paul Kayye (ret)  
 3 boys- Gary, Guy, Adam (deceased)  
 6 grandchildren: 5 girls- 1 boy

### **Interested in Becoming an Area Director?**

We are pleased to announce that the resolution to expand the ROAL Executive Board to include an additional Area Director for each of our four areas has passed. Thanks to all who voted! We are currently seeking candidates for these positions...please submit your name...or the name of someone you recommend to ROAL National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Phyllis Sellen ([pheninc@fairpoint.net](mailto:pheninc@fairpoint.net))

### **Shirley Mendralski: Middle America (Yellow)**

I joined the Cincinnati Club in 1974, became an active member in 1990 after attending the National Convention in Atlanta, GA. I was first asked to be the Department of Ohio ROAL Chaplain. Since that time, I have held the office of President, Vice President, Chaplain, or Historian for the Department of Ohio and Cincinnati Club. I have led several terms as Area Director for national and have held my present position of Middle America Director since the election at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida 2009.

Frank and I have been married 43 years. We have three children, one daughter-in-law, and one son-in-law. All are members of the Cincinnati Club ROAL. We have five grandchildren which keeps grandma and grandpa very busy.

The Middle America Area has a total of 136 members representing five states, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

### **Department of Florida Update**

ROAL expresses gratitude for the generous donation of the Florida Department to national ROAL.

State Spring Convention at Punta Gorda:

Goals:

- ✚ Investigate how Florida ROAL contributions might better be used to directly improve the lives of those veterans and their family members within Florida before their scarce resources are allocated elsewhere
- ✚ Continue to support causes that have local and national impact including support of Fisher Houses, Sew Much Comfort, Honor Flights and other projects.

### **Deep Dive** *(continued from page 3)*

Finances- attended by Cathy Luke

Look at other revenue sources including the importance of:

- a. Marketing- sell ROA on the ROA website, Income potentials
- b. The Law Center has received – some 800 calls in the past year. The Law Center provides pro-bono legal research and referral suggestions.
- c. Biggest initiative going forward- is the Foundation of “STARS”. More will be revealed as this initiative gets off the ground.

Following the reporting out by those who attended the Deep Dive activity, the ROAL leaders present discussed implications for ROAL and follow up:

Question- What is the “family support” that ROAL could support?

- i. Look at local levels for support- at the local bases
- ii. Possible attendance and support of social activities
- iii. Membership with a survey of needs at the local level
- iv. Support family day- Have a ROAL table
  1. Survey locally- the members
  2. Identify the top 5 needs



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2013 ROA National Security Symposium,  
Reserve Component Expo & National Convention  
**August 7-10, 2013**  
Marriott Wardman Park  
Washington, DC



2013 ROA Leaders Conference  
**March 17-21, 2013**  
MinuteMan Building, Washington, DC

***More information will be posted when available***