



Mississippi Coast Military Officers Association

P.O. Box 5027, Keesler Station

Biloxi, MS 39534-0027

www.MCMOA.org

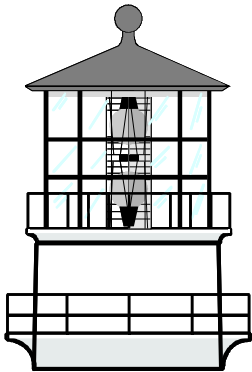
February 2008

February Membership Meeting

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You can contact the Editor,
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The MississippiCoast Military Officers Association normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Your Officers are currently evaluating ways to increase Participation. We will continue to update you on where the meetings will be conducted and in what format via this news letter. Stay tuned and don't switch that remote.

Februarys MOAA members monthly meeting and social gathering will be on 19 February at the Salute Italian Restaurant, 1712 15th Street; Gulfport, MS 39501 (228) 864-2500. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 PM in the open bar. Dinner will begin at 7 PM. Cost of the dinner will be individual member responsibility. The menu ranges from Great Pasta Dishes starting at around \$9.00 to elaborate steaks and seafood in higher price ranges. Gratuity will be added to your bill. Active duty members are encouraged to wear the uniform of their branch of service that would be equivalent to casual civilian dress. This will help in identifying our group as past and present Military Officers to other patrons of the Restaurant that may be eligible for membership who may then join us for drinks and dinner and/or inquire about membership.

See you there, bring a guest with you. Any questions please call Bob Carson at 228 388 7511.

Membership Renewal

Yes, its membership renewal time again! We have weathered the storm these past two years and are headed back to a good solid recovery. However, that said we need your support both financial and in attendance at our monthly meetings. Our officers are in the process of looking for better ways to serve you and the folks on active duty and the retired community. As we all know it takes some dollars to operate even a small organizations like ours. One of our major expenses is the monthly news letter and we hope you are enjoying it and find it useful in keeping up with what is going on in TODAY's military. We also have the day to day administrative expenses associated with keeping our organization going. Finally, your dues support the annual cookout and help with any expenses associated with our guest speakers such as meals. Bottom line there is always a need for money and this is where you can help. The cost to belong to our local chapter is \$20 a year and this gives you a lot of bang for the buck. If you have signed up for 2008, thanks, we appreciate your support. If you have not, please take a few minutes and fill out the membership renwaal notice in last month's newsletter and mail to the address shown.

Minutes of Officers and Directors Meeting for January 2008

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy Welch at 1100, 30 January 2008 at the Vandenberg Hall Meeting Room. In attendance was Lucy Welch, Bob Carson, Jeff Neal, Phyllis Luttman, Rich Moss, Gloria Skillestad and Mel Irving.

*Duties of each Office was reviewed.

*Organizational Structure was reviewed.

*Bob Carson assumed duties of the Secretary

*Lucy Welch will continue as Treasurer

*Programs: Monthly meeting for February will be at the Salute Restaurant in Gulfport at 1800 February 19, 2008

Tentative plans for the First MCMOA Dining Out to be held this fall were discussed.

The next officers and directors meeting will be at the Marina on **February 13, 2008 at 11 AM.**

*Gloria Skillestad will be getting many of our activities into local news outlets

*Committee Chairs were reviewed and after much discussion the following chairs were dissolved: Membership Chair (it was decided that we could all be ambassadors to this activity), Marina Chair, CB Chair, Dinner Seating Chair, and the Personal Chair.

*The Present Mission of the Association should be to encourage more social interaction with our members and member recruiting.

*Finance: The Christmas Party almost paid for itself resulting in only \$80.00 coming out of the Associations account.

Present Balance in savings \$2222.19, and checking is \$2947.53. The officers and directors voted to reimburse Lucy Welch \$119.00 for the

Inspection Stickers (Reminder)

Mississippi Law requires all vehicles registered in the state to have an annual inspection. A current sticker must be displayed on the lower left hand corner of the windshield, and must be visible from the outside. Many of us know from personal experience that this is an easy item to over look so save yourse some potential problems and check your auto for the expiration date of yourvehicle. Hopefull y, it will have months to go-- if not , stop by an inspection center and get it updated ASAP.

Why Join MOAA???? (Reprint of earlier article)

First, MOAA is a leader in The Military Coalition that works each year to pass national legislation that benefits military members and their families. Second, MOAA has many programs and benefits in place that can help you with everything from transitioning to a second career in the civilian sector to booking a discounted vacation cruise.

The thing MOAA does best, however, is continually educate its members about their earned military benefits and entitlements and keep them abreast of changes that affect them. Recently, we came across an item in the Green Valley (Ariz.) Chapter's newsletter, which was written by Cmdr. John Chernoski, USNR-Ret., membership co-chairman and webmaster. His comments served as a reminder that active membership in MOAA has real value.

USO Lounge in Airport

The lounge opened Dec. 19, just in time for the holiday troop exodus. It's open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and offers service members free snacks and beverages, wireless Internet service, four laptop computers, phones, a fax machine and a place to relax while awaiting flights. To volunteer, call 575-5224.

Legislative Update

MOAA On Stimulants

MOAA weighed in with the Senate Finance Committee this week, endorsing the Committee's economic stimulus package, in large part because it would cover up to 250,000 disabled veterans, retirees and survivors potentially excluded from the House-approved bill.

The Senate plan would provide \$500 for a single person and \$1,000 for a married couple, plus \$300 for each child under age 17. It would apply to anyone with an adjusted gross (taxable) income of less than \$150,000 per year (\$300,000 per married couple).

The House plan would provide \$600 for a single person and \$1,200 per couple, plus the same provision for children, but includes significantly tighter income requirements.

It would provide the full amounts only to people with adjusted gross incomes up to \$75,000 per individual and \$150,000 per couple. Those with incomes above that amount would have their rebate reduced by 5% of taxable income above the threshold. Singles with incomes above \$87,000 and couples above \$174,000 would receive no rebate, absent any qualifying children.

Several members have forwarded us reports that the House plan wouldn't cover non-working retirees. That's not entirely true. It would cover people with taxable income, to include taxable retired pay and Social Security. But it would exclude anyone with no taxable income, such as a disabled veteran or survivor who received only Social Security and VA disability compensation or VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

That's a primary reason why MOAA endorsed the Senate plan, which would include such people in the eligible population.

Some have also expressed concern that congressional debates could delay delivery of the rebates. That's not really a worry at this point, since the IRS can't begin to process rebates until mid-May – after it processes the 2007 tax returns. And it takes 60 days to reprogram IRS computers. That means Congress has until mid-March to finish the stimulus package.

According to Senate Finance Committee sources, the Senate is expected to vote on the Committee plan next week. At this point, it's uncertain whether it can win enough votes to pass. If not, the Senate may just adopt the House plan, or perhaps try a more modest amendment to the House proposal to protect disabled vets and others with non-taxable income.

TRICARE Conference Addresses Big Issues

The Military Health System (MHS) Conference in Washington DC addressed the full range of military health care programs, accomplishments, and needs. MOAA leaders participated in two particularly interesting panel discussions.

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret), was one of five distinguished panelists asked to address "the future of military health care." Ryan emphasized the need to make the budget fit requirements rather than vice-versa, expressing MOAA's support for a Defense Budget at least equal to 4% of GDP. He made the case that there's too much discussion about how much military health care costs the government, and not enough into the level of benefit that career military people earn through lengthy and arduous service.

"We need to put some principles in law such as those expressed in Sen. Frank Lautenberg's (D-NJ) Military Health Care Protection Act," (S. 604) Ryan asserted. "We need to specify in law that military retirement and health benefits are the primary offset to the adverse conditions of service; that those decades of sacrifice constitute a hefty, in-kind prepayment of premiums; and that the percentage increase in military health fees in any given year shouldn't exceed the percentage increase in military compensation."

Ryan closed by saying that Congress and the American public understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by military people. He said it is up to leadership to ensure that the budget matches their needs.

CDR John Class, USN (Ret), MOAA Deputy Director of Government Relations, joined a group of industry experts in a panel discussion concerning needs for an electronic health record. Class emphasized three main issues. One focus of the system should be to improve the physician-patient encounter. The system should give physicians the information they need quickly and easily to facilitate diagnosis and treatment decisions. Another requirement is to improve information flow, not only between DoD and VA but also between military hospitals, network civilian providers, and non-network physicians. Finally, he emphasized that beneficiaries should have web-based access to their health information to check test results, access medical history information needed for insurance and long-term care applications, and provide immunization and other information for children's school and sports activities, etc. Patients shouldn't have to visit their medical facility to get this information.

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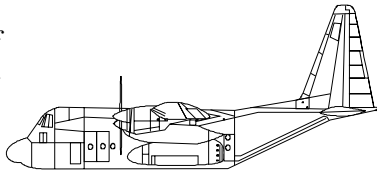
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



February 2008

The *Newsletter* is published monthly for members and friends of the Mississippi Coast Military Officers Association. It aims to broaden their awareness and understanding of events and issues relevant to military officers in this area.

7 February 2008



Monthly Dinner Meeting on Tuesday,
19 February 2008 at the Salute

Chapter Officers for 2008

PresidentMaj Lucy Welch (867-0893) **2nd Vice President**Maj Jeff Neel (896-6588)
1st Vice President ..LT Bob Carson (388-7511) **Secretary** LT Bob Carson (388-9084)
Treasurer.....Maj Lucy Welch (867-0893)

Past Presidents

CAPT Clark Wakefield - President Emeritus

Col. Matthew Thompson	Lt. Col. Carl Remley	Lt. Col. Dean Todd	Maj. Gen. Leo Jones
Lt. Col. Hollie Wilkes	Lt. Gen Bryan Shotts	Lt. Col. Sid Marcus	Lt. Col. Fred Dunaway
Lt.Col. Dick Wilson			CDR Dick Hansen

Directors

Brig Gen Richard Moss - Col. Phyllis Luttman - Col. Harvey Nixon
CDR Dick Hansen - Melvin Irving

Committee Chairs

Chaplain	Col. Joe Peck	Retiree Activities	Lt. Col. Yvonne Dougherty
Commissary & BX ...	Col. Phyllis Luttman	Newsletter	Col. Harvey Nixon
Club Representative	Lt. Col. Dick Wilson	Programs	LT Bob Carson
Legal Council	Lt. Col. Russell Thompson	ROTC	Lt. Col. Tom Varble
Legislative	Lt. Col. Fred Dunaway	Scholarships	CW4 Ray Skillestad
Medical Center	Col. Phyllis Luttman	Webmaster	CDR Ron Miller