



President's Message, December 2011

Hi to everyone- I hope your Fall is going well. A busy time, especially with the holidays upon us!

If you missed these two recent events, you missed some good fellowship and great information:

On September 17th we were honored to participate in the annual CAL-MOAA Region VIII Luncheon at MCAS Miramar, featuring national MOAA President, Vice Admiral Norb Ryan, USN. It's always so informative to hear Admiral Ryan's perspective on the Washington scene, and his reminder to us all that we must remain ever vigilant of threats to our hard-earned benefits. We can be sure the folks at our national Headquarters are fighting daily for the interests of all of us- active duty, Reserve and National Guard personnel, retirees, and family members. Please continue to respond to those MOAA Alerts for action. Our elected representatives need to hear from us often! At the luncheon, our Chapter was presented a beautiful 40th Anniversary Citation by Admiral Ryan.

On October 6th, we joined the Coronado Navy League Chapter at a dinner meeting, featuring CDR Shanti Sethi, Commanding Officer of USS DECATUR (DDG 73). How exciting to hear about the recent deployment, which included a threat by Iranian gunboats!

Coming up- see info below about the December 6th Joint Dinner Meeting- don't miss this very special tie to the Coronado community. Your Board voted to contribute \$ 500.00 to help defray costs for the commissioning ceremonies of USS CORONADO. Come meet the Commanding Officer and some of the crewmembers.

Your Board will remain the same for 2012, and the volunteers will be inducted at the December 6th Dinner meeting.

We are still seeking volunteers for both the Secretary and Newsletter Editor positions. Our former Secretary, Jim Strickland, graciously continued the Secretary duties this year, but we must give him a break, so we are asking again for a volunteer- could be a regular member, spouse, Auxiliary member. Jim has streamlined the duties so well that it's really not a burdensome job. Plus, we are again offering some incentives, like free meals at Dinner meetings, free Chapter membership- we will negotiate! As for the Newsletter Editor position (also held formerly by Jim Strickland), wouldn't you like to see a return to the "old", more informative Newsletter? Again, this could be a regular member, Auxiliary member, or spouse, with some incentives, including free membership, dinners and free computer software to make crafting the Newsletter a breeze! How about a husband/wife team?

If you want to discuss either of these positions, please call Jim Strickland at 435-6608.

My last comment about holiday spirit involves our annual Letters to the Troops project. We are now reading over 600 letters written by Coronado schoolchildren to our military men and women overseas. Two students from each of the Coronado schools will be selected to receive a gift certificate from Bay Books, and all the letters will be sent overseas to be enjoyed by the troops. Look for the best letters to be published in the Eagle Journal in January.

On that happy note I wish you all the very best for the holidays! Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Information on December 6, 2011 Joint Dinner Meeting is posted on our web site for members to review.

To review this information go to your Chapter web site:

<http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/> (select "Events" and click on "Joint Dinner Meeting")

The Tuesday, December 6 dinner reservation form will need to be printed from your computer and sent to the chapter post office box to make a dinner reservation, pay your 2012 dues or contribute to the various activities your chapter supports. The December 6 dinner will be at Coronado Yacht Club. **CDR John Kochendorfer, commissioning Commanding Officer, USS CORONADO (LCS-4) Blue Crew**, will be our guest speaker. Reservations must reach our PO Box by noon, Friday, December 2 (firm).