



## Soundings, February 2014

### President's Message

#### Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

Our last joint MOAA hosted December 3<sup>rd</sup> installation dinner meeting at the Coronado Golf Course Clubhouse with USS Midway Historian Karl Zingheim as our Guest of Honor/Speaker was a GREAT event – MANY THANKS to ALL who attended, and MANY, MANY THANKS to ALL who have “volunteered” (and were installed) to lead the chapter through the 2014 year!!!

Information on our upcoming joint CCNL hosted February 17th dinner meeting appears on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter, with a reservation (RSVP) form that can be printed out and sent in with a check to make a reservation for the meeting. Please note that this dinner/meeting will be held on a Monday evening at the Coronado Yacht Club (vice at the Golf Course). Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be Dr. Mike Sise, the Trauma Medical Director at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California, speaking on Today's Military Medicine. RSVPs are due NLT Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE come out and join us for dinner and a GOOD time!!!

MAXIMUM THANKS to all who volunteered to help read/judge this year's Letters to the Troops!!! We received almost 800 letters from our Coronado

schools - more that double the number we had last year. Letters were sent to the troops prior to the holidays, winner's names and winning letters will be published in the Eagle Journal this month, and 1st and 2nd place winning students received gift certificates to Bay Books. THANKS VERY MUCH once again to Pat Donahue for leading this GREAT project!!!

OK, here's my final pitch for chapter dues renewal for this year. As we enter the new 2014 calendar year, it's (past) time to renew chapter dues for many of our members whose dues expired at the end of 2013 (or before). With the option we instituted a few years ago of being able to renew your Silver Strand Chapter MOAA membership for either one (\$10 regular/\$5 auxiliary) or multiple years (5 years for \$40 regular/\$20 auxiliary), some members may not be aware of just how long their dues are paid for, and when they need to renew again (vice having to renew every year when renewing for only one year). In order to help with that, at the end of this newsletter you'll once again find a list of chapter members with the date you are paid through after your name. For example, if a 14 (or higher #) appears after your name, your dues are current and paid through this 2014 year (or longer). If a 13

(or less) appears after your name, we have not received your chapter dues for 2014. Chapter dues are \$10 per year, or you can chose the 5 year option by sending us a check for \$40, in which case we'll extend your membership for 5 years. Many members have chosen this option, greatly reducing the frequency of having to deal with renewal - it comes highly recommended! And for this year we have an even BETTER option called “Renewal 2020”. For a one-time dues payment of \$50 (\$25 for Auxiliaries), we'll extend membership in the chapter until 2020 for anyone whose dues expired after the 2013 year (or before)! We need to provide our membership status/roster to National MOAA in February, so we would REALLY APPRECIATE anyone whose dues have expired renewing as soon as possible – MAXIMUM THANKS!!! Membership can be renewed/dues paid if necessary using the dinner meeting reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter - we sincerely hope you will ALL continue as members with the chapter as WE NEED YOU!!!

In addition to the above, we have recently instituted a new category of chapter membership called “Legacy Membership”. This category applies to all chapter members who are

either 90 years of age or older, and/or anyone who has been in the chapter for 40 years or more. If you fit into either of these categories the chapter will waive your chapter dues for life. We have pins and (will get) name tags that will identify you as one of our Legacy Members. We already have three Legacy Members, and I suspect there are more in the chapter. Please let us know if you're one of our Legacy Members!!!

MAXIMUM THANKS ALL – hope you had GREAT holidays and that 2014 is your BEST YEAR EVER!!! I hope to see you all on February 17th!!!

V/r,  
Tom

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## Legislative News

### MOAA's Legislative Goals for 2014

#### Health Care Issues

- Bar disproportional TRICARE fee hikes
- Oppose proposals to dramatically increase pharmacy copayments or bar retirees from participation in TRICARE Prime
- Reverse Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts
- Create a seamless transition for warriors moving from DoD to VA care
- Oppose any enrollment fee for TRICARE For Life (TFL), and oppose initiatives to dramatically limit coverage by Medicare supplement policies, including TFL
- Reinstate TRICARE benefits for remarried survivors when their subsequent marriage ends.
- Upgrade programs and ensure improved DoD policy and implementation for families with special-needs children
- Ensure timely access to the full range of mental health care services for servicemembers and their families and caregivers
- Promote the availability of TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) coverage
- Allow active duty and Selected Reserve members to pay out-of-pocket health and dependent care expenses with pretax FSA dollars

#### Retirement/Survivor Issues

- Resist initiatives aimed at "civilianizing" the military retirement system or reducing benefits for those who serve a career

- Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA)
- Repeal the deduction of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities
- Allow SBP annuities to be paid to special needs trusts for permanently disabled dependents
- Reform the unfair provisions of the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Lower the age eligibility for permanent ID cards for military spouses and survivors (currently age 75)
- Authorize payment of a full month's retired pay to survivors for the month of the service-member's death
- Lower the age at which survivors in receipt of DIC retain this benefit upon remarriage from 57 to 55
- Restore TRICARE coverage to remarried SBP annuitants if their remarriage subsequently ends in death or divorce
- Permanent tax incentives to help employers sustain business operations during call-ups of Guard/Reserve
- PCS reimbursement increases to offset expenses incurred in complying with government-ordered relocations
- Protect against privatization, consolidation, reduction in services, or elimination efforts in commissary and exchange programs
- Ensure full funding of Impact Aid for public schools with significant populations of military children
- Encourage remaining states to sign the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Legislation that supports military spouse license portability
- Extend unemployment benefits to military spouses forced to resign due to military-directed relocations

#### Active/Reserve Force/Family Issues

- Sustain military manpower levels needed to match service missions; ease deployment rates; and improve quality of life, retention, and readiness
- Credit all activated service toward early Guard/Reserve retirement
- Sustaining pay comparability with the private sector
- Improve and enhance access to affordable quality child care
- Promote and support programs to assist children dealing with deployment-related issues

#### Veterans and Other Issues

- Recognize "blue water" Navy Vietnam War Agent Orange claims for service-connection
- Prevent disproportionate penalties on particular segments of the beneficiary or taxpayer population
- Protect long-lived beneficiaries' income from the ravages of inflation

**Auxiliary Liaison News**

The COLA cut for military retirees under age 62 also impacts surviving spouses under age 62. If you are under age 62 and in receipt of SBP, your cost of living adjustment will be reduced by 1% if this does not get changed by our government.

Senator Bernie Sanders is introducing S-1950, a bill which will improve some benefits for survivors and veterans. Please contact our Senators and ask them to co-sponsor this bill. Please contact Kathy Prout if you have questions about survivor benefits.

**Special points of interest:**

- RSVPs for the February combined meeting are due NLT Friday, February 14th.
- Special membership rates in effect! See the President's Message for more information.
- Over 800 letters were received for this year's Letters to the Troops. YOUR volunteerism continues to make this program a success!

**Guest Speaker: December 3rd, Dinner Meeting**



**Dr. MICHAEL J. SISE, M.D.  
Today's Military Medicine**

Dr. Sise is the Trauma Medical Director at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California. He attended the College of Holy Cross, the University of Rochester School of Medicine, and obtained his surgical training at Naval Medical Center, San Diego. Dr. Sise is board certified in surgery, vascular surgery, and surgical critical care. He was Chief Surgeon aboard the U.S.S. Guam and U.S.S. Iwo Jima with the amphibious assault forces in the Persian Gulf during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991. He completed a 20 year career as a Naval Medical Officer in 1992. Dr. Sise is a Clinical Professor of Surgery at the UCSD School of Medicine and a senior faculty member and past Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program of Naval Medical Center San Diego. Dr. Sise continues to train military surgeons for combat casualty care as a residency training program faculty member of the Departments of Surgery and Emergency Medicine at Naval Medical Center San Diego. In the October, 2007, he served as the Senior Visiting Surgeon at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany teaching and assisting military surgeons in the care of wounded warriors evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr. Sise is a past member of the Board of Managers of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and he is the Chairman of the AAST Foundation. He is the immediate past Chairman of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Prevention Subcommittee. He lectures frequently on topics related to trauma, acute care surgery, vascular surgery, and quality improvement at numerous regional and national medical symposia. Dr. Sise and his wife and colleague Beth, who is a nurse and an attorney, have received numerous awards for their work in violence, injury, and substance abuse prevention. Dr. Sise married Beth McDonald Sise in 1976. They have one son, Robert, who is a medical student at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine.



**MOAA Chairman's Capital Hill Testimony**

MOAA Chairman of the Board Gen. John H. Tilelli, Jr. USA (Ret) testified January 28 before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) on an annual 1 percentage point COLA cut for working age military retirees established in the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA). General Tilelli laid out three priorities:

1. Full and immediate repeal of the COLA cut
2. Future changes to the military retirement system must grandfather military retirees and the current force
3. Future changes to the military retirement system must be fully vetted through the Armed Services Committees to determine the impact on our world class, all-volunteer force.

The full impact of the COLA cut caught many legislators by surprise only after the BBA was signed into law on December 26. The BBA failed to grandfather currently serving members or retirees, and was not vetted by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

MOAA launched the largest campaign to overturn the cut, sending more than 270,000 messages to Congress. By the time of the hearing this week at least 17 repeal bills had been introduced in the House and Senate with nearly 50 percent of legislators signed on as cosponsors to one or more measures. The hearing was an important step towards repeal. Members of the committee present and the DoD witnesses agreed that the current servicemembers and retirees should be grandfathered from the COLA cuts. Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., USN said the COLA cut has caused "considerable and understandable anxiety" among retirees and those planning for retirement. He emphasized that making piecemeal changes to the retirement system would be a "big mistake."

**Dinner Meeting Reservation/  
Donation/Dues Form**

**Where:** Coronado Yacht Club,  
1631 Strand Way

**When:** February 17, 2014  
**1800:** Social Time  
**1845:** Dinner – ***BUFFET @ \$30.00***  
**1930:** Program

**Gourmet Buffet**

**Grilled Flank Steak w/mushrooms & a red wine  
sauce, Chicken Pot Pie – White chicken &  
vegetables w/wine sauce in puff pastry, Salad,  
Dessert, Coffee & Tea**

Make checks payable and mail to:

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA  
P.O. Box 180043  
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations to:**

NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:**

\$10/year for Regular members, \$40 for 5 years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$5/year for Auxiliary members, \$20 for 5 years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$50 for "Renewal 2020" (dues paid through 2020) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you need an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to RSVP by Friday, 14 February and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please call Tom Bauer at (619) 313-2228 (days) or (619) 437-6689 (evenings), or e-mail [bauertg@yahoo.com](mailto:bauertg@yahoo.com).

**Reservations must reach  
our PO Box by NOON,  
Friday, 14 February  
(Firm)**

**SS MOAA 2013 Officers/Board of Directors**

President	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 <a href="mailto:bauertg@yahoo.com">bauertg@yahoo.com</a>	USMC Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret) 435-6877 <a href="mailto:downeyjdmud@yahoo.com">downeyjdmud@yahoo.com</a>
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## MEMBER DUES STATUS/PAID THROUGH

Allega	13	Flynn	16	Lanman	20	Owen	15	Thomas, R.	11
Andreasen	17	Foley	14	Lare	13	Parker	17	Thompson	12
Auten	11	Foster	16	Lee	17	Pedrotty	11	Town	13
Ball	14	France	14	Lindsey	11	Penner	16	Townsend	13
Barrons	12	Giorgione	17	Litrenta	13	Peterson	20	Turpit	15
Bauer	20	Golden	14	Lover	13	Pontes	15	Van Rooy	14
Bean	13	Gott	13	Madouse	13	Potts	15	Vaughan	12
Beatty	14	Green	13	Malone	15	Powell	18	Von Wantoch	12
Behm	15	Grimaud	14	Martell	18	Pray	14	Wack	17
Bell	17	Grimm	13	Martin, E.	12	Prout	17	Walsh	18
Bernitt	28	Hales	19	Martin, W.	18	Quartly	14	Wamsley	14
Bianchini	15	Harvey	21	Mather	12	Rahill	LIFE	Ward	13
Bixler	14	Hascup	13	Mayhue	16	Rank, C.	13	Wastila, G.	13
Blakely	14	Hatfield	14	McCarthy	18	Rank, E.	11	Wastila, M.	20
Breay	14	Hayward	LIFE	McCauley	13	Redding	15	Watson	14
Bruyere	20	Heinze	20	McClung	20	Rochfort, C.	11	Weisbrod	15
Buckovetz	20	Helsper	11	McClure	16	Rochfort, R.	13	Wells	14
Busbee	15	Hernandez	13	McCoy	13	Rodgers	13	Woiwode	14
Butcher	20	Herrmann	16	McCue	17	Rogers	13	Wood, David	16
Byrne	13	Hinesley	14	McGrath	13	Russell	11	Wood, Dennis	13
Clarey	13	Hoffmann, D.	13	McGuire, M.	12	Ryan	17	Woods	19
Clausen	17	Hoffmann, P.	13	McGuire, W.	18	Sadlier	20	Woolway	12
Cooper	14	Hoffmann, W.	20	McKamey	13	Sangalis	16	Worley	17
Corriere	18	Hostler	14	McMahon	13	Schiffner	13	Wright	18
Cotten	13	Howe	15	Meyer	13	Schrantz	15	Zaludek	15
Couture	16	Humes	14	Mitchel	14	Shaw	16	Zortman	14
Crawford	14	Huskey	20	Moeller	14	Sheridan	17		
Crilly	12	Ireland	16	Monroe	14	Simmons	15	<b><u>New Members</u></b>	
Cronin	18	Jackson	14	Moody	16	Sloan	13	Finley	20
Crow	13	Jamison	13	Mooney	14	Smisek	13	Yorck	15
Curtin	13	Jennings	16	Morris, P.	15	Snyder	13	Mallires	18
Deweese	17	Jepson	13	Morris, R.	15	Sontheimer	13		
Dinger	13	Johnson, H.	11	Morton	14	Spittler	14		
Donahue	14	Johnson, T.	25	Mummert	14	Stames	14		
Dorsey	13	Kachigian	19	Newcomb	17	Stanley	11		
Downey, C.	18	Keeney	17	Newport	20	Stephenson	11		
Downey, J.	20	Kemp	15	Newton	17	Steuer	12		
Duermeyer	15	Keoleian	18	Nordgren	20	Stihl	13		
Edney	13	Knop	14	Nyquist	14	Strickland	14		
English	13	Krejmas	14	O'Brien	17	Sund	17		
Erly	15	Lafleur	15	O'Keefe, A.	13	Sweeney	20		
Etsell	14	Laird	LIFE	O'Keefe, M.	15	Teachout	15		
Fagan	20	Lamberth	20	O'Leary	13	Thomas, J.	13		
Farrell	13	Lancaster	13	Orosz	14				

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