



SOUNDINGS

SILVER STRAND CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FEBRUARY 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CAPT TOM BAUER, USNR (Ret)

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!! It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected as your president for the 2013 year. We have an outstanding group of officers and board members (new and continuing) who are anxious to serve you, and to make the Silver Strand Chapter everything you want it to be. As you know, this chapter has a long and distinguished 42 year history of serving active duty, veterans, retirees and their families. This past year we put out a call for volunteers to take officer and board positions in order to continue in that tradition. Many of our officers and board members had served for many years, and often many times, and were in need of a well deserved break. Thankfully, we had enough members come forward to take positions that would allow us to keep the chapter afloat in the future, however we still have a few board positions that are in great need of a full time person, namely Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Legislative Liaison. I'll attempt to fill these positions temporarily however that's not the long-term plan. Until they're filled we'll just hang on for dear life! Hence, the rudimentary nature of this newsletter. I did want to get something of a newsletter out to you all, via e-mail for all those who have it and via snail mail for those who do not, so that you'll be aware of what's going on within, and what's coming down the road for the chapter. For now, it won't be fancy.

We have a GREAT joint dinner meeting with the Coronado Council of the Navy League (CCNL) planned for Tuesday, February 19th at the Coronado Golf Course with CCNL hosting. Information on the 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. RSVPs are due by February 15th.

We want to make sure all members who either regularly or even occasionally attend chapter dinner meetings/functions have an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag. If you do not currently have one (either never got one, lost one, or are a new member), please let me know via e-mail, phone call, or by indicating your desire/need for a name tag on the dinner meeting reservation form on page 5. We will craft the plan to provide chapter name tags to everyone who needs one in the very near future!

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), it appears that 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 find a list of chapter members with the date you are paid through after your name. For example, if a 13 appears after your name, your dues are current and paid through this 2013 year. If a 12 appears after your name, we have not received your chapter dues for 2013, therefore it would require a dues payment of \$10 (regular) or \$5 (auxiliary) to become current. If an 11 appears after your name, \$20 is required for regulars and \$10 for auxiliaries to become current (covering the 2012 and 2013 years). As always, 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! Membership can be renewed/dues paid if necessary using the dinner meeting reservation form on page 5 of this newsletter - we sincerely hope you will ALL continue as members with the chapter as WE NEED YOU!!!

One of the issues we'll be letting you know about over the next couple of months is the new chapter member recruiting program recently rolled out by National MOAA called "Chapter Recruiting 2013". As you'll recall, for the past several years MOAA had a recruiting program called "Give Me 10". While this program did help recruiting at the national level, it did not have the intended beneficial result for chapters. This new program focuses all of MOAA's support and effort on chapter recruiting – helping chapters recruit and retain members – as they realize that chapter members do most of the heavy lifting for MOAA. We will be getting information on this new program out to you all in digestible amounts, and hope you'll all help the chapter increase its membership. Please keep in mind that while it would be optimum if all were members of both National MOAA and a local chapter, it is not necessary to be a member of a chapter to join National MOAA, and you are not required to join National MOAA in order to be a member of a local chapter (like ours!). THANKS VERY MUCH in advance for your help in recruiting new members!!! In the meantime, our new 2nd Vice President/Membership Chairman, CDR Al Herrmann, USN (Ret) has been doing an AWESOME job and has recruited several new members into the chapter already – MAXIMUM THANKS Al!!! We will be scheduling a "Welcome Aboard" social event in the not-too-distant future to meet, welcome and get to know our new members – date/time/details forthcoming soon.

My sincere apologies for getting so long-winded (warning: it gets worse when I'm "under the influence") in this first newsletter of the year – I promise they'll be shorter in the future! I'm very excited about our chapter as we head into this amazing new 2013 year! MOAA has never been a more important organization in taking on the budget and other challenges we'll all be facing in the future. You'll find a list of MOAA's legislative goals for 2013 on page 3 of this newsletter. We need to do all we can as a chapter and as individual veterans, retirees, active duty and family members to help them out! Please join me as we give it our best shot!!! MAXIMUM THANKS and I hope to see you all on the 19th!!!

**V/r,
Tom**

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

National MOAA has identified its list of selected legislative goals for 2013. To accomplish these goals, we, the individual members, should communicate our thoughts about these issues to our duly elected representatives.

Active/Reserve Force/Family Issues

- Sustain active duty, Guard and Reserve force sizes to meet mission requirements
- Sustain military pay comparability with private sector
- Protect currently serving and retiree benefits against significant degradation based on sequestration's arbitrary cuts
- Credit all post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard/Reserve early retirement
- Restore tax deduction for reservists' out-of pocket expenses for military travel of 50 miles or more
- Create new incentives for employers to hire and retain drilling Guard/Reserve members
- Provide incentives for employers/government/contractors to hire military spouses
- Protect funding for commissary/exchange, dependent schools and family support programs
- Improve access to affordable child care
- Require better education on serious financial disadvantages of the REDUX retirement option
- Improve professional licensure transferability for service members and military spouses

Health Care Issues

- Avert 27% Medicare/TRICARE payment cut and fix statutory formula to improve access to care
- Protect against disproportional increases in TRICARE fees
- Oppose enrollment fee for TRICARE For Life or curtailment of TFL coverage
- Allow three years of active-duty-level TRICARE coverage for disability retirees/families
- Improve seamless transition and protect Defense and VA health/benefits/support systems budgets
- Authorize option to subsidize retention of operational reservists' civilian family health insurance
- Increase orthodontia payment cap under active duty dental plan
- Authorize TRICARE coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) for active and retired members of the uniformed services

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- Oppose military benefit changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- End deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay
- End deduction of VA survivor benefits (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities
- Implement a more equitable military disability retirement system
- Restore VA DIC compensation for qualifying survivors who remarry after age 55
- Reform same SBP calculation for a reservist who dies performing IDT as for active duty deaths
- Authorize survivors to retain a deceased retiree's full final-month retired pay
- Authorize SBP annuities to be paid to Special Needs Trusts for permanently disabled children
- Reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Authorize Space-A travel for 'gray area' Guard-Reserve retirees and qualifying survivors

Veterans and Other Issues

- Improve quality, efficiency, transparency, and timeliness of VA claims-processing system
- Establish Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for surviving spouses of Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts
- Improve VA health services and access for women veterans
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long-term care premiums
- Reduce Social Security penalties for certain civil service and state retirees/survivors
- Prevent disproportional Social Security/ Medicare penalties for any population segment



Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting Tuesday, February 19, 2013

(Joint Meeting with Coronado Council Navy League – CCNL Hosting)

Guest of Honor/Speaker

**COMMANDER JENNIFER L. ELLINGER
UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER, USS KIDD**

Commander Jen Ellinger was raised in Palm Harbor, Florida and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1993 with a Bachelors of Science degree in General Science. Shortly after receiving her commission, CDR Ellinger reported aboard USS SHASTA (AE 33) in Alameda, California and served as the Second Division Deck Officer, Combat Information Center Officer, and Machinery and Boilers (M & B) Officer from April 1994 to March 1997. During her second Division Officer tour she served as the Navigator and Admin Officer aboard USS BENFOLD (DDG 65) in San Diego, California, from March 1997 to September 1998.

Upon completion of Surface Warfare Department Head training, she reported aboard USS DECATUR (DDG 73) and served as the Operations Officer from 2002-2003, deploying in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. During her follow-on Department Head tour at Destroyer Squadron Seven (CDS 7), she served as Operations Officer / N3 from December 2003 to July 2005, embarked aboard USS RONALD REGAN (CVN 76). From December 2006 to June 2008, she served as Executive Officer in USS BARRY (DDG 52), home ported in Norfolk, Virginia.

CDR Ellinger's assignments ashore include a tour as the Ground Operations Officer and Command Safety Officer at Assault Craft Unit FIVE (ACU 5) on Camp Pendleton, California from September 1997 to May 2001. A graduate of the Naval War College's Command and Staff course, she completed JPME Phase I and earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2006. Additionally, she served as Flag Secretary to the Commander, U.S. SECOND Fleet from June 2008 to December 2009.

CDR Ellinger reported to USS KIDD (DDG 100) in October 2010 as Executive Officer and fleeted-up to Commanding Officer in June 2011. While in command, she deployed with the JOHN C STENNIS Strike Group to the SEVENTH and FIFTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility where KIDD executed several Theater Security Cooperation missions and served as the flagship for CTF 151 in support of Counter-Piracy operations off the Horn of Africa.

CDR Ellinger's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with four gold stars, the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, as well as various campaign and unit awards. A distinguished graduate of the Surface Warfare Officer School's perspective Department Head and Executive Officer courses, she was the recipient of both the Arleigh Burke Leadership Award and Knachel Leadership Award, respectively. Additionally, she was a recipient of the Commander Naval Surfaces Forces Pacific 2004 Tactician of the Year Award, the 2012 Freedom Alliance 'Service to America' Award, and was named one of the 50 'Best Moms of San Diego' by Time Warner Cable in 2012.

She is married to LtCol Christian Ellinger, USMC, who is the Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion / 11th Marine Regiment in Camp Pendleton. They have two children and reside in Coronado.

CDR Ellinger will be reporting to her next assignment as the Chief Staff Officer of Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Squadron ONE in February 2013.

Dinner Meeting Reservation/Donation/Dues Form

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Dinner Meeting Tuesday, February 19, 2013

(Joint Meeting with Coronado Council Navy League – CCNL Hosting)

Guest of Honor/Speaker

**COMMANDER JENNIFER L. ELLINGER
UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER, USS KIDD**

Where: Coronado Golf Club Clubhouse, 2000 Visalia Row

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

**Barbequed Pork Ribs and Teriyaki Chicken with Home-Style Baked Beans and Corn on the Cob
Fresh Bread and Desert**

Make checks payable and mail to:

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Reservations must reach our PO Box by **Noon, Friday, 15 February (Firm)**

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 \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

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

AUXILIARY LIAISON NEWS

I went to Washington, DC to attend Senator Bernie Sanders, VT, swearing in ceremony and reception on Jan. 3, 2013. While there, I visited the office of our new Congressman Scott Peters. I welcomed him and congratulated him on his new job. I asked him to support the new bill to eliminate the widow's tax. He was unfamiliar with the issue, and was also unaware of the UVC meeting. He is on one of the Veterans Affairs Subcommittees. It was a good meeting. I also saw Senator Nelson's LD and new Defense Fellow, Senator Schumer, NY, Senator Kaine, VA, Senator McCain, AZ, Senator Rubio, FL, Senator Manchin, a new Senator from Texas, New Mexico and Hawaii, and Congressman Joe Wilson, SC. I also met Harry Reid at Sander's reception and got a photo. His first day back, Congressman Wilson dropped a new bill to eliminate the SBP DIC offset, HR 32. It now has 51 co-sponsors including Susan Davis. MOAA will be sponsoring a mini Storm the Hill on July 16, 17 about the SBP DIC offset. We need 100 widows, friends and supporters to go to DC for those 2 days. MOAA has reserved 50 rooms in a hotel and will supply bus transportation to the breakfast with staffers and to storm the hill. More information to follow. Senator Nelson will drop a new bill in the Senate sometime after Jan. 22.

SS MOAA 2013 Officers/Board of Directors

President	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	437-6689	bauertg@yahoo.com
First Vice	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret)	894-4765	allnavyjcd@aol.com
Second Vice	Al Herrmann, CDR, USN (Ret)	437-6210	aherrmann@pacship.com
Secretary	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	437-6689	bauertg@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bob Sheridan, CAPT, USN (Ret)	435-1938	bsheridan9@gmail.com
Air Force Rep.	Richard Hayward, LtCol, USAF (Ret)	435-4852	rhayward1@san.rr.com
Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret)	948-1393	dmayhue298@aol.com
Marine Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret)	435-6877	downeyjdmud@yahoo.com
Navy Rep.	John Donahue, CAPT, USN (Ret)	894-4765	allnavyjcd@aol.com
Legislative Chair	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	437-6689	bauertg@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	437-6689	bauertg@yahoo.com
Personal Affairs	Sparks Moeller	319-5994	RSKL04@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Richard Hayward, LtCol, USAR (Ret)	435-4852	rhayward1@san.rr.com
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	437-6689	bauertg@yahoo.com
Auxiliary Liaison	Kathleen Prout	435-6623	kmprout@aol.com
Past President	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)	409-9505	kmbruyere@gmail.com

MEMBER DUES STATUS/PAID THROUGH

Allega	13	Busbee	15	Downey, C.	18	Grimm	13	Huskey	13
Andreasen	17	Butcher	13	Downey, J.	13	Hales	19	Ireland	16
Auten	11	Byrne	13	Duermeyer	15	Harvey	21	Jackson	14
Ball	14	Clarey	13	Edney	13	Hascup	13	Jamison	13
Barrons	12	Cooper	13	English	13	Hatfield	14	Jennings	11
Bauer	14	Corriere	13	Erly	15	Hayward	15	Jepson	13
Bean	13	Cotten	13	Etsell	14	Heinze	14	Johnson, H.	11
Beatty	14	Couture	16	Fagan	13	Helsper	11	Johnson, T.	20
Behm	15	Crawford	11	Farrell	13	Hernandez	13	Kachigian	11
Bell	17	Crilly	12	Flynn	16	Herrmann	16	Keeney	17
Bernitt	28	Cronin	18	Foley	14	Hinesley	14	Kemp	15
Bianchini	15	Crow	13	Foster	11	Hoffmann, D.	13	Keoleian	12
Bixler	14	Curtin	13	France	14	Hoffmann, P.	13	Knop	14
Blakely	14	Deweese	17	Golden	14	Hoffmann, W.	20	Krejmas	14
Breay	14	Dinger	13	Gott	13	Hostler	14	Lafleur	15
Bruyere	13	Donahue	14	Green	13	Howe	15	Laird	13
Buckovetz	13	Dorsey	13	Grimaud	14	Humes	14	Lamberth	13

Lanman	13	McGuire, W.	15	Owen	15	Ryan	17	Teachout	15
Lare	13	McMahon	13	Parker	17	Sadlier	13	Thomas, J.	13
Lindsey	11	Meyer	12	Pedrotty	11	Sangalis	16	Thomas, R.	11
Litrenta	13	Mitchel	14	Penner	16	Schiffer	13	Thompson	12
Lover	13	Moeller	14	Peterson	20	Shaw	16	Town	13
Madouse	13	Monroe	14	Pontes	15	Sheridan	17	Townsend	13
Malone	15	Moody	16	Potts	15	Simmons	15	Turpit	15
Martell	18	Mooney	14	Powell	18	Sloan	12	Van Rooy	14
Martin, E.	12	Morris, P.	15	Pray	14	Smisek	13	Vaughan	12
Martin, W.	18	Morris, R.	15	Prout	17	Snyder	13	Von Wantoch	12
Mather	12	Morton	13	Quartly	13	Sontheimer	13	Wack	12
Mayhue	16	Mummert	13	Rahill	12	Spittler	14	Walsh	18
McCarthy	18	Newport	13	Rank, C.	13	Stames	14	Wamsley	14
McCauley	13	Nordgren	13	Rank, E.	11	Stanley	11	Ward	13
McClung	13	Nyquist	14	Redding	15	Stephenson	11	Wastila, G.	13
McClure	16	O'Brien	12	Rochfort, C.	11	Steuer	12	Wastila, M.	13
McCoy	13	O'Keefe, A.	13	Rochfort, R.	12	Stihl	13	Watson	14
McCue	17	O'Keefe, M.	15	Rodgers	13	Strickland	14	Weisbrod	15
McGrath	13	O'Leary	13	Rogers	13	Sund	17	Wells	14
McGuire, M.	12	Orosz	14	Russell	11	Sweeney	13	Woiwode	14
Wood	16	Woods	19	Woolway	12	Worley	12	Wright	13
Zaludek	15	Zortman	14						