



Soundings, December 2013

President's Message

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

Our last joint CCNL hosted October 15th dinner meeting at the Coronado Yacht Club with Guest of Honor/Speaker CDR Michael "Shawn" Johnson, CO of the Gold Crew of the USS Coronado was a GREAT event – MANY THANKS to ALL who attended!!!

Information on our upcoming joint (with CCNL), SS MOAA hosted December 3rd dinner meeting appears on pages 3 & 4 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 the December dinner/meeting occurs much earlier in the month than usual, and will once again be held on a Tuesday evening at the Coronado Golf Course (vice the Coronado Yacht Club). Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be the USS Midway Historian, Mr. Karl Zingheim, a USNA graduate, who will be speaking on the Origins of Naval Aviation in Coronado, and the Navy in San Diego. **RSVPs are due NLT Friday, November 29th.** PLEASE come out and join us for dinner and a GOOD time!!!

As we enter the last month of this calendar year, chapter dues need to be renewed for many of our members. 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 (page 5) 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, and you would need to renew for 2014 (or longer). If a 12 appears after your name, we have not received your chapter dues for 2013, and if an 11 appears after your name, we haven't received dues for 2012 or 2013. 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! But 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 will expire after the 2013 year, and we'll also include anyone whose dues expired after the 2011 or 2012 years! As we need to report our membership status/roster to National MOAA in January, we would REALLY APPRECIATE anyone whose dues expire at the end of this year (or have already expired) renewing prior to the end of December – MAXIMUM THANKS!!! 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!!!

In addition to the above, we have 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 name tags that will identify you as one of our Legacy Members (if you want). Now, our records are just a bit sketchy in these areas – we don't have an accurate, comprehensive list of your birth

dates or when you joined the chapter, so we're on the honor system here – if you claim you qualify, we'll believe you!!! We already have three Legacy Members, and I suspect there are more in the chapter. So see - it pays to hang around as a member of SS MOAA!!!

MAXIMUM THANKS ALL – hope you're having a GREAT fall, and I hope to see you all on December 3rd!!!

V/r,
Tom

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Legislative News

Federal Legislation

- HR-32 & S-734.** Rep Joe Wilson introduced the new “Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act,” HR-32 to address the SBP offset to DIC payments. This effort began over 12 years ago, and is called the “widow’s tax.” Rep Susan Davis (D, 53rd, San Diego), Rep Juan Vargas (D, 51st, Chula Vista), Rep Scott Peters (D, 51st, San Diego) and Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) are among the **180 co-sponsors** for this HR-32 legislation. The HASC’s Subcommittee On Military Personnel now has HR-32 for action. This legislation affects over 55,000 military widows, and would finally repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan to offset the receipt of survivors’ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. S-734 was introduced as a companion bill to HR-32 on 4/16/13. Sen Barbara Boxer and Sen Feinstein from CA are co-sponsors on S-734. The SVAC has S-734 for action now. On 10/22/13 the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to support HR-32 after Navy widow Kathy Prout from Coronado addressed the Supervisors. The complete saga of this attempt to repeal the “Widow’s Tax’ is on-line at: <http://coronado.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/sd-supervisors-support-widow-tax-on-military-benefits>. CBS-8 and the San Diego U-T showed their support for HR-32 in an editorial on 10/23/13.
- HR-813 “Putting Veterans Funding First Act.”** Due to the success of the biennial 2 year funding of the VA’s healthcare budget, this bill was introduced 2/25/13 to expand advance appropriations for certain VA discretionary accounts, to include

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The effective date of this legislation would be fiscal year 2016, if enacted. Right now there’s only one member of the U.S. House from CA who’s a co-sponsor, and that’s Rep Julia Brownley (D, 26th, Westlake Village in Ventura County. Companion bill in the U.S. Senate is S-932.

- H.R. 303.** Same number as last Congress, now called the **“Retired Pay Restoration Act”** and again this new bill for the 113th Congress authorizes the full concurrent receipt of retired military pay and veterans’ disability compensation for retirees regardless of disability rating. Laws have been changed over the years to give concurrent receipt to military retirees with VA disability ratings of over 50%, but not for the majority of veterans with less disability ratings. Rep Gus Bilirakis (R, FL) introduced the new HR-303 on 1/15/13. Only 7 members of the U.S. House from CA are among the **80 co-sponsors** for this bill, and that includes two from our County, Rep Duncan Hunter (R, 50th, El Cajon) and Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd, San Diego). HR-303 has been assigned to both the HASC’s Subcommittee on Military Personnel, and to the HVAC’s Subcommittee on Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs.
- S. 234. Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013.** This Senate bill is very similar to both H.R. 303 and H.R. 333, addressing the concurrent receipt issue. Sen Harry Reid’s S.234 has 20 co-sponsors, including Sen Barbara Boxer from CA. This bill was introduced on 2/7/13.

To track both U.S. House and U.S. Senate bills, go to: <http://>

Thomas.loc.gov. At the center top of the web page, got to the “Legislation in Current Congress” box and simply type in the bill number or key word.

California State Legislation

- Governor Jerry Brown was here in San Diego, at VVSD, on 10/10/13 to sign a number of veterans’ bills into law, including two which have been previously reported in monthly UVC legislative reports, i.e. AB-717 dealing with the Governor’s CALVET Board, and AB-639 dealing with CALVET bonds for multi-family units. Two other bills that were included in prior UVC legislative reports, AB-614 and AB-13, are now technically 2-year bills and the authors can move them through the legislative process again when the state legislature reconvenes in January 2014. They were not vetoed by the Governor.
- On 10/10/13, the Governor signed these veterans’ bills: AB-639, AB-143, AB-150, AB-151, AB-244, AB-556, AB-717, AB-1057, SB-232, SB-272, SB-290, SB-725 and SB-759. Additional veterans/military related bills that have been approved by the Governor include: AB-163 (sales/use tax at military thrift stores), AB-173 (small business procurement), AB-258 (veteran’s info for state), AB-287 (Vietnam Vet Memorial), AB-372 (Vet hiring preference), AB-508 (homeless vet debt collection), AB-526 (military benefits), AB-530 (phone applications for vote by mail), AB-555 (SSN’s), AB-557 (Vet Homes Accounting), AB-960 (women commission to include vet), AB-1094 (CalWORKS eligibility to include VA compensation), AB-1289 (CA Vietnam Veterans Memorial), AB-1410 (establish courts martial appeal-

Legislative News

late panel), ACR-7 (Korean War Armistice Day), ACR-11 (Day of remembrance for Americans of Japanese ancestry during WW-II), ACR-36 (veterans treatment courts), AJR-19 (sexual orientation benefits), SB-106 & SB-232 (Fort Ord Fund), SB-119 (flag burning), SB-134 (CalFresh eligibility), SB-769 (veterans' firearms/felony), SB-815 (Veterans' claims against the U.S.), SCR-27 (National Purple Heart Trail in Santa Barbara & Ventura), SCR-40 (Korean War Armistice Day),

- The Governor vetoed these veterans' bills: AB-704 (military service toward EMS certification), AB-714 (spinal cord injury research fund), AB-1373 (workman's comp for firefighters and police), and SB-723 (credentialing of veterans).

- There are dozens of bills that have been rolled over to become 2 year bills that the state legislature will address in January 2014.

To obtain updates on all California legislation, go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>. You can sign up at this web site to get e-mail updates whenever action is taken on an of the bills that are of interest to you.

Special points of interest:

- **RSVPs for the December 3rd combined meeting are due NLT Friday, November 29th**
- Special membership rates in effect! See the President's Message for more information.
- Finally, a big "Thank You" for your support for this year's Combined Luncheon. **YOU** made it a success!

Guest Speaker: December 3rd, Dinner Meeting



Mr. Karl J. Zingheim

A 1986 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, he is the Staff Historian for the USS Midway Museum in San Diego. He also a member of the editorial review board for the World War II Quarterly, the only peer-reviewed journal dedicated to that conflict and has written and presented on numerous topics on naval history including Mains'I Haul and on the History Channel program "Dogfights!"

Auxiliary Liaison News—Kathy Prout, Auxiliary Liaison

The new amendment number for the SBP-DIC offset is SA 2202. Senator Nelson will bring this amendment to the floor of the Senate sometime this week. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that it will get passed. There is also an amendment for Concurrent receipt being dropped as well.

The AMAC (Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee) will continue to work on the SBP DIC issue and other survivor issues. An Auxiliary member is now going to have a seat on the board of directors. MOAA will start taking applications and nominations in January with a deadline of March 30.

I will continue to be the Vice Chairman of AMAC and will most likely stay on the committee unless I get selected to the MOAA board of directors.

The AMAC is seeking two new members, one from the South and one from the Virginia, Maryland area.

AMAC is working on the criteria, which will explain the position and job description so that the Presidents of Chapters and Councils will know whom to nominate.

There is a new Facebook page for MOAA members regarding survivor issues. It is "Survivor Issues:MOAA". It is intended for any MOAA or Voices member with an interest in survivor issues to provide information and legislative updates.

I recently represented MOAA and military widows at the San Diego County Board of Supervisors Meeting. The Board wrote a letter supporting legislation to eliminate the SBP DIC offset. I was also interviewed by Channel 8 news and was the lead story on the 10 PM news and in the morning news. I have also been asked to write about the SBP-DIC offset and the impact on survivors for militarylife.com.

Have you renewed your membership? Current member status may be found on page 5.

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

Phone: 619-313-2228 (Day)
619-437-6689 (Night)
E-mail: bauertg@yahoo.com

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

Where: Coronado Golf Course,
2000 Visalia Row

When: December 3, 2013
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, Beverages and Dessert**

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 \$ _____

**Reservations must reach
our PO Box by NOON,
Friday, 29 November
(Firm)**

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, 29 November 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.

SS MOAA 2013 Officers/Board of Directors

President	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USNR (Ret) 437-6689 bauertg@yahoo.com	USMC Rep.	John Downey, LtCol, USMC (Ret) 435-6877 downeyjdmud@yahoo.com
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		Past President	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret) 409-9505 kmbruyere@gmail.com

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	11	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	13	Wamsley	14
Bianchini	15	Harvey	21	Mather	12	Rahill	LIFE	Ward	13
Bixler	14	Hascup	13	Mayhue	6	Rank, C.	13	Wastila, G.	13
Blakely	14	Hatfield	14	McCarthy	18	Rank, E.	11	Wastila, M.	13
Breay	14	Hayward	LIFE	McCauley	13	Redding	15	Watson	14
Bruyere	13	Heinze	20	McClung	13	Rochfort, C.	11	Weisbrod	15
Buckovetz	13	Helsper	11	McClure	16	Rochfort, R.	13	Wells	14
Busbee	15	Hernandez	13	McCoy	13	Rodgers	13	Woiwode	14
Butcher	13	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	13	Woolway	12
Cooper	13	Hoffmann, W.	20	McKamey	13	Sangalis	16	Worley	17
Corriere	18	Hostler	14	McMahon	13	Schiffer	13	Wright	18
Cotten	13	Howe	15	Meyer	13	Schrantz	13	Zaludek	15
Couture	16	Humes	14	Mitchel	14	Shaw	16	Zortman	14
Crawford	13	Huskey	13	Moeller	14	Sheridan	17		
Crilly	12	Ireland	16	Monroe	14	Simmons	15		
Cronin	18	Jackson	14	Moody	16	Sloan	13		
Crow	13	Jamison	13	Mooney	14	Smisek	13		
Curtin	13	Jennings	16	Morris, P.	15	Snyder	13		
Deweese	17	Jepson	13	Morris, R.	15	Sontheimer	13		
Dinger	13	Johnson, H.	11	Morton	14	Spittler	14		
Donahue	14	Johnson, T.	25	Mummert	13	Stames	14		
Dorsey	13	Kachigian	13	Newcomb	17	Stanley	11		
Downey, C.	18	Keeney	17	Newport	18	Stephenson	11		
Downey, J.	13	Kemp	15	Newton	17	Steuer	12		
Duermeyer	15	Keoleian	13	Nordgren	13	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	13	Lamberth	13	O'Leary	13	Thomas, J.	13		
Farrell	13	Lancaster	13	Orosz	14				