

On The ROAD FAST TRACK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA, RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2010

WWW.MNROA.ORG

Volume 7 #1

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Department of Minnesota Officers, 2009-2010

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Editor: Jeff Webster

Webster Graphic Communications

Presidents Message

By Lt Col Gary Chambers. USAFR (Ret.)



Even though the groundhog saw his shadow, spring is upon us and Department of Minnesota ROA Convention is imminent. Mark April 24th, 2010, on your calendars. We will convene at the Ft Snelling Officers Club from 0900 to 1500. This year's event will follow last year's format. We are again forgoing a lunch speaker, instead offering attendees the opportunity to rekindle friendships over the meal.

Once again, the ops tempo has taken a toll on our drilling reservists. The department nominating committee has been unable to identify a slate of officers for this next term. It is time we assess the department's role in the Reserve Officers Association structure. A main agenda topic is to determine the course Department of Minnesota will follow. Is the Department a necessary bridge between the national organization and chapters? How best can we advocate for the reservists? What

projects will motivate our members to do the association's business? What other questions should we be asking? We are a volunteer organization balancing member availability with the goals of the organization. And, we aren't the only group needing to examine change.

The reserve force continues to evolve from keeping to cold war bear at bay to the current war on terror. I find this new struggle particularly troubling. We no longer are up against a tangible foe; we are now locked in a battle with an ideology. As antiquated as the Maginot Line was in 1939, the Air-Land battle doctrine needs a similar overhaul. The F-35 may be the last manned fighter a mere century after this weapon first appeared over the trenches of France. The sea services have come full circle to once again battling pirates off the coast of Africa. Let's join in singing Bob Dylan's, "The times they are a changin'". What hasn't changed is the high quality of service members willing to stand up for their country so that freedom may continue to be enjoyed by succeeding generations.

Project Sound Improvement

Notice to MNROA Members:

The MNROA Department of ROA has initiated a plan for the improvement of the Sound System in our OC Club at Fort Snelling. The Board of Directors believes that a STRONG RELATIONSHIP among the RESERVE and the GUARD and our military personnel who live and serve within the family of MNROA. It is realized that a covenant between personnel and their families in their OC facility improves comradeship and moral that is necessary for the club and MNROA. Your OC Club serves as the anchor for social events, warmly hosted meetings, garden club activities, and card games such as bridge, recognition balls, and more are activities afforded our membership at your Club and a quality second to none is what

we all deserve in our OC club at Fort Snelling. Therefore your board voted to start a fund drive to raise money for improvement of the Sound System at the OC Club. We are urging members and associated PMA's to raise \$2,500 to accomplish this project for all to enjoy. We urge our chapters to join in this project which should bring it to reality within a year. Send your contributions to the following:

MNROA

Attn: Comptroller

P.O. Box 11769

St. Paul, Minnesota 55111-0769

 **ROA**TM
RESERVE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION

LATE BREAKING NEWS

DRUM ROLL.....

The Department of Minnesota web site was awarded the ROA Sword & Screen Award for 2009 and ROA's BG

David B. Sarnoff Award for 2009 at the February 2010 National Convention.

“ ... for your superior efforts in advancing electronics communication programs through your Outstanding Website Presentation”.

See the Department History page on the web site for a detailed history of website award wins.

This is the fourth win by the Department of the Sarnoff award the most recent having been won in 2007.

Guest Speaker

By William L. Holahan, Col USMCR (Ret.), Director of Member Services, ROA



ROA today is a widely recognized preeminent advocate in Washington, D.C. for Guard and Reserve issues.

ROA is the only professional association that represents all of the seven uniformed federally commissioned Services and has since its founding in 1922. ROA is not a veteran benefits organization. It is a professional association that advocates through education to its many diverse constituencies. A full time national staff of 29 persons calls our landmark Minuteman Memorial Building at the corner of 1st and Constitution in Washington, our headquarters.

ROA takes very seriously its mission, directed under Public Law 598, in its Congressional Charter to *“support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security”*. As such, we never forget that taking care of those who are taking care of us is a solemn obligation conveyed to our membership by way of their commissions as officers.

For example, working closely with the *Punaro Commission on the National Guard and Reserves*, ROA was able to directly influence

over 95 specific recommendations that were included in the Commission’s final report made to the Congress and DOD. These recommendations have in many cases been implemented into law, DOD regulation, or individual Service policies. ROA focus is to support our citizen warriors and their families, who are now an indispensable component in an increasingly Operational Reserve.

Today over 53% of our members are from the Army and National Guard. These officers make up the largest segment of our membership. Our fastest growing membership segment is among junior officers. Our past ROA National President, a field grade Army Reserve officer, prior to his election by our members, was mobilized and served a tour in Iraq on the staff of General Petraeus.

We encourage serving officers to join ROA and eagerly seek your input on those issues that you feel are important to you, your careers, both civilian and Reserve, and your family. Welcome!



MISSION

Support our National Security through dynamic programs that positively impact locally elected officials, all levels of ROA, and future, current, retired, and former Reserve officers of the Uniformed Services of the United States.

ROTC Liaison Minnesota ROTC Programs

The Department of Minnesota ROA maintains an active liaison with all of the ROTC programs (*) in the State of Minnesota:

- ROTC (Army) University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus
- ROTC (Navy) University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus
- ROTC (Air Force) University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus
- ROTC (Air Force) St. Thomas University, Minneapolis
- ROTC (Army) Minnesota State University, Mankato
- ROTC (Army) St. John's University, Collegeville (St. Cloud)
- ROTC (Air Force) University of Minnesota, Duluth

(*) other Minnesota higher education institutions in the geographic area of the above are able to send their students to participate in the ROTC programs.

2010 Spring ROTC Awards and Recognition

By Col Marilyn Chambers, USAFR (Ret.)

Spring 2010 ROTC and JROTC awards ceremonies are being scheduled. There are Seven ROTC unit programs in Minnesota at Universities. There are 12 metro JROTC units at schools, one in Duluth and one in Bemidji. See our web site for listings.

Each unit receives an ROA coin and certificate from our coordinator to present to an outstanding cadet chosen by the school. The actual presentations take place during formal awards ceremonies and are part of recognizing the achievements of the cadets. Dates and locations will be available soon.

ROA volunteers to present the ROA award are always needed. The presentation itself is very short with no speaking involved by the volunteer. There are always excellent opportunities afterwards to mingle with students, parents and other presenters. If you would be interested in being a presenter, please contact Col Marilyn Chambers at aromed@att.net or 651-308-5088.

Review Your Personal ROA Data *By Larry DeVries, CAPT CEC USNR (Ret.)*

You are strongly encouraged to log into the ROA web site <<http://www.roa.org/>> <http://www.roa.org> to check and update your personal membership data. We know email addresses change and phone numbers can change so please confirm your phone numbers and email address information there.

The Department of Minnesota and its chapters do not maintain a membership roster separate from the national ROA membership database - all membership info starts with the national data. When we need the data we download a current listing and thereby use the most current membership information.

It is important to have an email address, if possible, for each member. Email addresses are now free (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, others). The use of email is much less expensive and faster for communications to the member. As a minimum please have a valid phone number. We promise not to over-use either email or phone number.

It is also important to have your preference of Minnesota Chapter affiliation associated with your ROA membership. You may view your current Chapter affiliation but you cannot change you affiliation by way of the web site. To establish or change your chapter affiliation the following steps are necessary:

1. Call toll free to ROA Membership at 1-800-809-9448.
2. Send an email to: <<mailto:info@roa.org>> info@roa.org and request your preferred affiliation in the following format: "MN/0XX" (see our web site for state chapter numbers).

For details visit <<http://www.mnroa.org/>> <http://www.mnroa.org> and click the button Your Membership.

Summary: Maintenance of your information on your membership with ROA is your responsibility (including chapter affiliation). Please take the time to keep your contact information updated.

\$\$ DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA "BUCKAYEAR"

Yes, I want to help pay the cost of publishing "On the ROAd FastTrack."

(Make checks payable to Minnesota ROA and mail to Newsletter Editor, Dept of MN ROA, P.O. Box 11769, St. Paul, MN 55111-0769)

Benefactor.....\$25.00	Donor..... \$10.00
Patron \$20.00	Supporter \$2.00
Sponsor.....\$15.00	Buck a Year \$1.00

Name _____

Chapter _____

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.

MNROA Personal Affairs Planning

As military members you have a responsibility of organizing your estate governed by your will. This is especially true when you have appreciable assets. We suggest that each member consult an attorney regarding their needs. (Your local Retired Affairs Office, RAO, of your military branch may provide a list of attorneys willing to work with you at a reduced rate.) Bear in mind that state laws vary in their provisions governing the execution of wills and the administration of estates. Your SBP (retirement compensation for you and family should be identified with elections), healthcare (TRICARE) coverage including Social Security Benefit, current military ID for spouses requirement and listing of assets (property,

cash, banks and investments, etc.) and those actions you wish carried out by your executor **YOUR WILL**. If you do not have a will, your property will be distributed in accordance with the laws of the state. You might believe that because you are living on retired pay and your affairs are arranged so your spouse will have access to your wealth and possessions as well as your property you do not need a will. It could be that your insurance is payable to the beneficiaries you want to receive the proceeds, and you have no large or unusual debts. Most assuredly you are encouraged to create no conflict for your family that would cause any member to claim anything from your possessions at the time of death. Planning will serve you well in this regard.

Although RAO's may be able to furnish draft WILL and/or Health Directives, we encourage working with an attorney to insure legal features of the documents. Our association with its reference tools is of great assistance in providing you with information. The Personal Affairs Committee will provide you with a survivor checklist of tasks to be accomplished on the death of a retired military retiree. You are urged to plan well before it is needed.

Will Philipson
Personal Affairs Committee

A Great Program For Community Service

AARP Senior Driving Classes

Have you ever thought about helping out Minnesota Seniors in dealing with aging issues they have behind the wheel?

Since 1979, the AARP Senior Driving Program (55 Alive) has kept many Minnesota Seniors driving safely and for many more years into the future. Since then, many Retired Officers as well as active Reserve and Guard folks have stepped up to the plate becoming instructors in their community helping their fellow Americans in this way.

Here in Minnesota students who complete this course are given a 10% discount on their

auto insurance by state law. This is quite an incentive to them but most of all by taking the class they really become safer drivers and that's good for everyone. Classes are either an 8 hour beginners class or a 4 hour refresher class. Hosts are schools, senior centers, churches, legion clubs, banks and many more. There is no monetary award but the realization that you have helped fellow citizens in this was is a great reward. Gas and expenses are covered in the program. You may want to join your 565 fellow Minnesotans in this great program. It also is good for MNROA in that it spreads the word letting

others know that we Military Officers are here for them as well. The course deals with hearing, vision and reaction time issues that are all part of the aging process.

If you think that you might have an interest in getting involved in this fine program, phone 1-888-227-7669 or visit our website at: www.aarp.org/drive to find out more about helping out.

~Jeff Webster, State Marketing Specialist

Department of MN is UVLC Member

By Larry G. DeVries, CAPT CEC USNR (Ret.)

The Department of Minnesota ROA is an active participant in the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC) of Minnesota. The UVLC of Minnesota is a Consortium of Veterans, Military, and Auxiliary Organizations organized to exchange information and support issues relating to entitlements for Veterans, Military Retirees, the National Guard and Military Reservists, their dependents and survivors.

The general purpose of UVLC is to inform and educate member organizations, federal, city and state legislators and agencies of the need for, the effect of and the status of legislation,

ordinances, rulings and actions that promotes and advances the welfare and interests of all veterans, active military, national guard and reserve personnel of the armed forces of the USA, their dependents and survivors.

The Department of Minnesota ROA is a member of the UVLC by way of paying an annual membership fee. Alan Ruvelson, Jr., COL USA (Ret.), long time member and active participant in the Department of Minnesota, is the Department's designated representative to the UVLC. His attendance at and participation in UVLC meetings is very much appreciated.

In addition to UVLC member organizations, UVLC participants work at monthly meetings with the commander's task force that consists of nine of the many congressionally chartered veteran service organizations in the state of Minnesota. The UVLC holds monthly meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the Building 9 auditorium of the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital Campus.

For additional information see the UVLC web site at <http://www.mnuvlc.org/>. For a listing of all participating organizations in UVLC of Minnesota see the web site button named Links.



MINNESOTA ROA STATE CONVENTION

24 April 2010



9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

\$25.00 per person

Coffee - Choice of Noon Meal

(Parmesan Walleye, Chicken Burgundy, or Commanders Steak)

Business Attire or Service Uniform

934th Airlift Wing (Ft. Snelling) Officers Club, Post Road

Participate in the annual State Convention of your Association. Reports from the Department of Minnesota and ROA State Chapters on the year just ending. Election of officers for the ROA Year 2010-2011.

All ROA members and guests are welcome!!

Please RSVP to Gary Chambers (651-308-5088) or send email to f4wso@att.net and include your meal choice.

Deadline 21 April • Payment at the door

We hope to see you there!!

http://www.mnroa.org



Cut and mail your registration

Please check the box for the Convention for each person and then check an entree choice for the noon meal:

- Convention (includes lunch) \$25.00, Parmesan Walleye, Chicken Burgundy, Commanders Steak

Number Registered Total \$

Name Rank Service

Guest/s

Contact phone no.

Dinner reservations must be made before 21 April 2010 to insure Club can prepare for attendance. No refunds will be made after that date. Please make check payable to ROA Department of Minnesota and mail to Department of Minnesota 2010 Convention, c/o Lt Col Gary Chambers, 7330 Inman Ave So., Cottage Grove, MN 55016 (POC: 651-308-5088)

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.

The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund

The Department of Minnesota, Reserve Officers Association

By Col Marilyn Chambers, USAFR (Ret.)

The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund (MDAFF) has formally existed since April 2002. The idea for its inception, however, was developed in 1999-2000, when the Department of Minnesota of The Reserve Officers Association (ROA), determined that it would be beneficial to have a companion non-profit organization that would support its goals of furthering the education and preparation of junior officers. As the concept of the organization developed, a corps of volunteers was recruited, and initial funding was received from individual contributions and a variety of fund raising activities.

MDAFF is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Over time, this status has facilitated fundraising efforts aimed at our members, individuals interested in our mission, and other contributors.

The activities of fundraising and disbursement of funds raised have resulted in over \$10,000 being expended in two major areas:

- 1) funding of merit awards for Minnesota ROTC cadets and mid-shipmen, and,
 - 2) funding of scholarships for junior officers attending ROA educational events.
- The Freedom Fund continues to appeal to ROA members for funds for its efforts on an ongoing basis. Minnesota ROA members should consider the Freedom Fund as the fundraising arm of the Department of Minnesota ROA.

The target for the Freedom Fund's Minnesota Campaign 2010 is to raise an average contribution of \$25 from each of our Minnesota ROA members. This target represents an aggressive approach to replenish recent expenditures as well as continue the Fund's programs into the coming year.

The Board of Directors structure of MDAFF consists of five designated directors who are the elected officers of the Department of Minnesota Board - President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Comptroller, and Immediate Past President. In addition, there are three At-Large Directors who are elected for staggered three year terms.

The MDAFF Board elects its own officers - President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer - from the eight Board members noted above.

The MDAFF has held stable this year. The Board considered a variety of options for funding activities and decided to hold disbursements until the next fiscal year. Our financial status is solid but we would like to increase the principal to \$10,000 before resuming awards. Please consider a tax-deductible gift to this worthy fund. Information and methods of donation can be found on the Department of MN web site.

Visit Our Web Site

The Department of Minnesota funds and maintains a web site at <http://www.mnroa.org>. This web site contains more detail on the activities of the Department of Minnesota as well as the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund. There are notices of events upcoming and in some cases those notices precede that same information found in the newsletter by several weeks. There are more details of events, more photographs, and post-event recaps. Items too lengthy for the newsletter are there, such as how to change your membership records. Application forms exist for any Freedom Fund scholarship offerings and those can be downloaded and printed locally. A list of currently serving Department officers is also on the site. Links to Chapter web pages and other links are there. And, copies of past newsletters are available for downloading or viewing on your computer. So visit our web site and stay in touch. The newsletter and web site are intended to be complementary to each other.



May we count on your contribution?

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FREEDOM FUND

I wish to make a donation to continue the work of the Freedom Fund as follows:

- \$ 25
- \$ 50
- \$100
- \$200
- \$250

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

I pledge to honor my donation commitment of \$ _____ each year as follows: 2 Years 3 Years 4 Years 5 Years

Mail to: The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund • P.O. Box 11769 • St. Paul, MN 55111-0769

Contribution Form

Form REV03

MISSION

Support our National Security through dynamic programs that positively impact locally elected officials, all levels of ROA, and future, current, retired, and former Reserve officers of the Uniformed Services of the United States.

ROA National Convention – 2010

By LTC John Rosnow, USAR

Department of Minnesota National Council Representative

This was quite the trip to attend the convention this year. When I got home after work on Friday, I found out my flight was already delayed two hours. I could not change my shuttle departure though as a later shuttle would not have gotten me to the airport in time.

I departed Landstuhl Germany Saturday morning, and after about five hours of waiting in the airport, I got on the plane. After another hour or so, they cancelled the flight and put us up in a hotel in Frankfurt. We were told to keep our boarding passes as we would be on the same flight Sunday. Later that evening, they said there would not be a plane and we needed to rebook. United had one seat available for a flight on Monday. That would not work to make it to the convention so I called SATO and got a flight rescheduled with Lufthansa airlines that connected in Boston and left on Sunday.

The Sunday flight took off on time and I arrived in Boston and it was a beautiful day. When I was out at the International Terminal, the US Airways flight to Reagan Airport was still going so I rechecked my bags and headed over to Terminal B. When I got there, the flight was cancelled. The airline put me up in Boston and rescheduled me for a 1000 flight Monday morning. They had no idea where my bags were.

Monday I got to the airport and my 1000 flight was cancelled, as was the 1100. The 1200 flight already had 27 people on the standby list. I

ended up flying out on the 1300 flight and got to Reagan airport about 1430. I found my bags that I had checked in Frankfurt on Saturday (I had not seen them since I checked them on Saturday morning. Glad I did not put my jacket in the suitcase.) I got to the Hilton about 1530 and checked in. I was able to see some of the exhibits and a few people that had also made it to the convention.

Tuesday was full of meetings. We started with the Joint Reserve Panel in the morning and the Minuteman Hall of Fame presentation to LTG Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, later in the morning. Rather than a sit down lunch, they had lunch for us in the expo. The food was good, but there was not a lot of places to sit and eat. It also got people into the exhibit hall. Tuesday afternoon we had the Army Section meeting. They Army will conduct a Leadership meeting, much like the ones they used to do in the fall in Saint Louis. This will be in conjunction with the National Council Meeting in Las Vegas. The Army Section Leadership meeting will only be on one day, so people could potentially fly in and out the same day if they did not want to pay for a hotel. After that I attended the National Resolutions Committee meeting where we went through all the expiring and new resolutions. We had 48 resolutions to discuss. We did start to get more snow on Tuesday.

The Wednesday visits to the Hill were cancelled as the government was shut down because of

the snow. We had a general assembly meeting at 1300 where the Publications Awards for 2009 were presented to the outstanding Department and Chapter Newsletter Editors and Webmasters. Congratulations to CAPT Larry DeVries who is a recipient of the BG Sarnoff award for outstanding Department website! We then discussed all the resolutions, as well as a couple of Constitution and Bylaws changes. The dues change passed, and the voting decision has been tabled. Several of the resolutions passed without any, or much discussion. The most controversial resolution was in reference to homosexuals serving in the military. The end result was the resolution was allowed to expire. We then had a Presidential Working Group 21 update. This was the same update that they had at the National Council Meeting, that I was not able to attend as I was travelling. The main focus of this is the rewrite of the Constitution and By-laws that will be voted on next convention. These are being mailed out to each Department President and will be available on the website in order for people to discuss and ask questions before next year's convention www.roa.org/forum. The Wednesday evening festivities were a little different this year. They had a formal reception, with buffet style dinner and open bar. They had a DJ and played music so people could dance. They also offered free photographs with backdrops of popular Washington DC attractions. While some people like the long dinner and presentation, many people enjoyed the changed for the evening.

New Web Site by Veterans Administration Assists Veterans

VA Media Relations <mailto:va.media.relations@VA.GOV>va.media.relations@VA.GOV> sends:

Web Site Offers Single Access Point for Wounded Warriors – Three Federal Departments Collaborate on National Resource Directory
WASHINGTON (Feb. 25, 2010) - The federal departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor and Defense unveiled today an improved Web site for wounded warriors.

“VA is committed to tapping into the full powers of the Internet to provide accurate, timely, easy to find and easy to understand information that improves the lives of Veterans, service members, their families and all who care for them,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The National Resource Directory is a

comprehensive, free, online tool for wounded, ill and injured service members, Veterans and their families.

Visitors to the site can find an extensive range of information about Veterans' benefits, including disability and pension benefits, VA health care and educational opportunities. The site also provides information for those who care for Veterans, such as access to emotional, financial and community assistance.

The Web site has been enhanced to provide a single point of access to a wealth of information from more than 10,000 sites by federal, state and local governments and organizations offering services for wounded warriors.

“This online directory is an invaluable resource for those involved in helping service members and

Veterans,” Shinseki said. “Reliable information about government and private-sector programs can be a priceless tool.”

A recent addition to the Web site is a specialized section where users can find help for homeless Veterans. These resources will help end Veteran homelessness over the next five years.

The new design will help visitors find needed resources easily. Other enhancements include a fast, accurate search engine; a “bookmark and share” capability that allows users to share valuable resources on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites; and a news feature with updates on relevant information and events. Resources are added daily.

Visit the site at <<http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>>www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov.

VISION

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**Reserve Officers Association
Of The United States
Department of Minnesota
PO Box 11769
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111-0769**



04/01

MISSION

Support our National Security through dynamic programs that positively impact locally elected officials, all levels of ROA, and future, current, retired, and former Reserve officers of the Uniformed Services of the United States.

Some Of Ours..... and America's Finest



LTC Robert Chauçierre, USAR, and wife Aida at the banquet of the 2010 Reserve Officers Association National Convention at the Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., February 7-10, 2010. He flew from Germany for this event while on extended Army duty there and Aida had to ride a train from Boston the same day (because all domestic flights were cancelled when that region was hit with two big snow storms).



“Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnist, and are not necessarily those of the Department of Minnesota or of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. Publication of advertisements or congressional profiles does not imply endorsement by the ROA or the Department of Minnesota of the products & services advertised or officers profiled”.

Editor: Courtesy of Webster Graphic Communications • Harmony, MN