



THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
www.nwfmoa.org

Vol. 18 No. 3 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services MARCH 2012

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed. 7 March 2012
Time: Open: 0700; Bkfst: 0715;
Meeting: 0800-0900
Place: Eglin Bayview Club
Program: Lt Gen Gordie Fornell,
Eglin Mission Transfer
Eglin Bayview Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
\$7.00 for Club Members
\$9.00 for Non-Members

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Dan Cobbs at 685-9415 or send an email to: summittk@cox.net if you are attending.

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Twentieth Amendment - Part II

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Are Effectiveness and Economy the Same?

By Ken Wright

We will be honored to have Lt Gen Gordie Fornell, USAF (Ret), as our guest speaker at the March Meeting and he plans on updating our membership on the decision to put the 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base under the command of a two-star general at California's Edwards Air Force Base. Lt Gen Fornell has worked for years with Okaloosa County's Economic Development Council on the



Lt Gen Gordon E. Fornell,
USAF (Ret)

Defense Support Initiative Task Force and has been on the front lines before when Edwards attempted to snatch the 46th Test Wing's valuable Research, Development Training and Evaluation mission from Eglin. Lt Gen Fornell, along with Jim Breitenfeld, appeared before the newly formed state Defense Support Task Force to air their concerns. These concerns will be shared with our membership in order to

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It's a ROLLBACK--NWFMoa Style!

Annual membership dues were due by the end of December. To confirm your membership expiration date look at the mailing label on this copy of The Defender. If one of the top lines includes '2011' you are overdue. If your membership information (address, phone, email, etc.) hasn't changed simply send a check made out to NWFMoa to NWFMoa, PO Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310. Dues are \$25.00 for regular members or \$12.50 for auxiliary members. If your information is changed, or you are interested in discounts, please include the membership renewal form found in this issue. Prompt payment will save the club money by not requiring us to send out invoices.

President's Corner

“Semper Paratus”

By Ken Wright

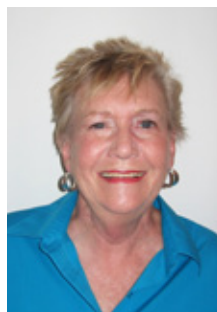


Ken Wright

“Semper Paratus,” Latin for “Always Ready,” and yes, Northwest Florida Military Officers Association Board of Directors is always ready to make a course change, when it warrants. A course change we have made. After further review of our expenses, our reserves, and our potential to find some income opportunities, we have chosen to “Roll Back” our increase in annual membership dues for 2012 from \$34.00 to \$25.00 and corresponding reductions for multi-year renewals. If you have not renewed your memberships, please do so NOW to take advantage of this. A renewal form is on the last page of *The Defender*. Don’t hesitate to call me at 850-582-6442 if you have any questions or comments. If you weren’t able to attend the “OFFICERS CALL” at the Eglin Grill & Tavern on February 9, 2012, you missed a great one. We had the place full and it looks like a good time was had by all. Not only did we come together to share a drink or two with each other and share some stories, network, and some good old friendship, we were able to say our “good bye” to one of our favorite members, Mary Nied. She is moving to Pensacola and won’t be able to get back to the meetings on a regular basis and share the warm welcome our members and guest received at our Monthly Meetings. Mary, you will be missed and our organization has been much better because of your enthusiasm and cheerfulness you have given us and you will surely be missed.

MEMBERSHIP By Gayle Norgaard

MEETING THE MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE



Gayle Norgaard

In January I had the opportunity to attend the Florida Council Winter Chapter Membership Chair Workshop in W. Palm Beach. On the day prior I was able to sit in on the board meeting. Across the world there are 62,000 chapter members, 35 councils, and 412 chapters. A big concern is the declining membership and the future of our organization. We need to work together to increase our NWFMOA Chapter Membership.

This can’t be done alone. I’m asking our members to step forward to form an active committee. Ideally we need to have representative of all 5 services to recruit the next generation of chapter members. Personal contact is the key to success. Increasing our community involvement will make our organization more visible. Wear your MOAA logo or pin. This is a great opportunity to tell the individuals the advantages of becoming a member. Offer complementary MOAA membership to currently serving Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve. A two year paid membership is \$30 for retired officers and survivors. This is a great opportunity for our local charter members to join MOAA. Encourage them to go online at www.moaa.org. Click on to join and then **GIVE ME 10**. The Web site for NWFL Military Officers Association, our local chapter, is www.nwfmooa.org. Note that membership dues have been decreased to 1yr \$25, 2yrs \$48, 3yrs \$65.

Members interested in joining the Membership Committee please contact me. We need all your input to be a success. My contact information is on the front page of *The Defender*.

PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Maj Gen Harry A. Morris, USAF (Ret), 1/8/2012. Gen Morris was not a current member of the chapter but was our chapter president from 1984-1985; Maj Harold G. Hock, USAF (Ret), 2/16/2012.

NEW LIFE MEMBER: Lt Col Bob Cluskey, USAF (Ret)

Member Spotlight



Fred Rall

Editor's Etchings

By Scott Berry

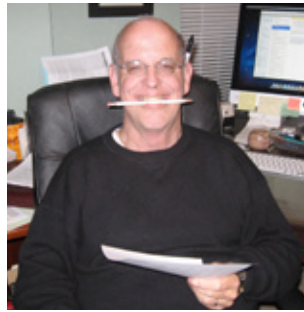
Greetings!

By the time you read this, Mardi Gras will be a memory from the past and by reading this I'm confident the same isn't true of you! As a bit of trivia, "Mardi Gras" is French and literally means "Fat Tuesday." That is one of a handful of positive results from my two painful years of undergraduate French classes. Why is it called Fat Tuesday? Because it immediately precedes Ash Wednesday--the beginning of Lent--a time of penance, abstinence, and self-reflection. This also explains all the revelry (details upon request) that occurs during Mardi Gras--the last fling before 40 days of sacrifice. For example, I've never heard or talked to anyone who said "I'm going to Rio De Janeiro for Lent." My explanation wouldn't earn me an "A" in a theology class so I'll defer a more educated answer to Reverend Shirley--I hope she doesn't think I'm trying to steal something from her job jar.....

And of course we can still anticipate St Patrick's Day on the 17th--another day associated with much revelry. And for your second bit of trivia and applying what you learned in the previous paragraph, what do you call the day before St Patrick's Day? Hmmmm. Maybe you thought too hard because you call it the "sixteenth!" As this is a strictly secular answer, I can answer that based on my own education--Theology 101 not required!

On a more serious note, there are HUGE changes on the Congressional docket concerning retiree benefits. TRICARE premiums could potentially skyrocket. Please take time to investigate these issues. If you're so moved, don't hesitate to notify your representatives about your concerns. If you conclude you'll "decide later" on what to do, keep in mind a gold nugget I once got from a three star general: In delaying to take action you're not delaying a decision, because doing nothing IS a decision in its own right.

Berry "OUT"



Scott Berry

Chaplain's Column

By Sarah A. Shirley, Ch, Maj, FLANG



Chaplain Shirley

Evening the Score:
Thoughts on Springtime

Years ago I heard what was purported to be an Urdu greeting, "Aap Aye Bahar Ayee." It had a lovely translation: "You have come, and with you has come Springtime." Having no reason to believe I had correct information, I googled the phrase. While I found nothing about the expression itself, I did learn that it is the title of a 1971 Bollywood film about a love triangle turned violent.

"You have come and with you has come Springtime" is a greeting that breathes new life and joy into the very air surrounding the one who speaks it, so it was a bit of a downer to read about "Aap Aye Bahar Ayee" the movie. According to the 21st Century oracle aka Wikipedia, Rohit and Kumar are childhood friends and both fall in love with and propose marriage to the beautiful Neena. Neena loves Rohit, and rejects Kumar. Offended, Kumar "molests" Neena and impregnates her, leading to Neena's suicide attempt. Rohit saves her, marries her, and raises the child as his own. Kumar becomes a criminal, tries to blackmail Rohit, kidnaps the child, and commits all manner of mayhem. Neena eventually kills Kumar, and Rohit, Neena, and their son live happily ever after.

Whence the cheery title for such a twisted and terrible drama, albeit one that turns out nicely for three-fourths of the main characters? There was no happy ending for Kumar. Why this seemingly inevitable connection between tragedy and happiness? Newness of life seems to come only from something stale. A "breath of fresh air" requires an unstirred environment to be noticed, and plains of loneliness are virtually flooded by great love. Spring emerges from Winter, love arises out of lack of love, light pierces darkness. The great Soviet poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko wrote, "Sorrow happens, hardship happens, the hell with it, who never knew the price of happiness, will not be happy."

Contrast helps us see what is in front of us. The changing of seasons helps us to mark our place in the world, let go of the past and look forward to the future. We Floridians are somewhat exempt from the seasons, yet we know in our bones that the coming of Spring is a good

Say What?

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Continued on page 7

Fact or Fiction: Congressional Benefits

Approval ratings for Congress are at an historic low and our members often ask us what sort of benefits legislators enjoy.

The following information isn't presented to defend Congressional perks, but only to dispel some myths that perpetually float around the Internet. If we're to have credibility defending military programs, we need to have our facts right.



Bill Van Hoesen

Fact or Fiction:

1) Members of Congress get full pensions for life after serving just one term. **Mostly Fiction.** The Congressional retirement system is very similar to that of federal civilians. It's true that a member of Congress can become eligible for retirement benefits after a minimum of 5 years of service if they're age 62 or older, but only for a partial pension. To qualify for a pension a member of Congress must meet one of the following service and age requirements:

5 years of service and age 62

20 years of service and age 50

25 years of service at any age

Like the military retirement system, Congressional retirement pay is calculated on a combination of their average high-three years of salary and a multiplier based on their length of service. It's also worth pointing out members of Congress contribute to their own retirement and pay Social Security taxes. Once retired their Cost of Living Adjustments are sometimes held artificially below the Consumer Price Index which measures inflation. Since the Congressional retirement system was overhauled in 1984 (to be less generous) the average annual pension is roughly \$40,000.

2) Members of Congress don't pay for their healthcare.

Fiction. Members of Congress and their staffs are eligible for the same health insurance as federal civilians and pay the same premiums. They can enroll in any insurance program offered under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). One of the most popular plans under FEHBP (the Blue Cross Blue/Shield Standard plan) costs beneficiaries \$430 a month for a family and \$185 a

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Jeff Watson

Hi! I'm Jeff Watson, your new 1st VP. Ken and I are still working out what my duties will be to the chapter this year, so in the meantime, I thought I would give you a little bit on my background. First, I am a Floridian by birth and therefore a true native. I was born on Tyndall AFB, raised in a mili-

tary family, attended Fort Walton Beach High School from opening day in 1969, graduating from there five years later. I lifeguarded for the City of Fort Walton Beach for two summers, attended Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, George C. Wallace Community College, graduated from Troy State University, Cumberland School of Law, and have a Master of Laws in Military Law from The Judge Advocate General's School, Army, with a specialty in (Government) Contract Law. I spent four years in the U.S. Army in the 1970s, and then spent a career in the U.S. Air Force. I attended SOS in residence and am also a graduate of ACSC and AWC. I am currently employed by the Air Force at the Eglin AFB Law Center where I am an acquisitions attorney and legal assistance attorney. My passion has always been to help others and to follow the Boy Scout slogan "to do a good turn daily."

My vision for this chapter is to recruit more members, to increase opportunity for social activities for our chapter members, and to provide a stronger voice to the national association, MOAA. There are a lot of issues facing our military, including military retirees, especially in the next twelve months, and I think it is imperative that we provide a strong voice to MOAA on our important concerns. If we don't voice those concerns to MOAA leadership, we are going to lose the opportunity to influence the outcome.

To a more local interest, Ken has appointed me to head up the TOPS program for our chapter. Many of you may be very familiar with this MOAA program; I am just learning and it is in that vein that I ask for your assistance. Please let me know if any of you have the time and interest to help set up this program with me. As I learn more on this and hopefully get a positive response from you, I will provide you more on the development of this program. I think that helping separating officers transition to civilian

Continued on page 6

Officers Call - February 9th

The chapter again hosted a social gathering as an opportunity for camaraderie, hob-knobbing, solving world peace and some more informal issues. The event was at the Eglin Grill and Tavern in Shalimar and featured a special tribute to Mary Nied before she moves to Pensacola. Mary has been a staunch supporter of the chapter through her words as well as her deeds. For many years she's been the smiling face people see first when coming to the breakfast meeting. It's rumored she once welcomed LT Douglas MacArthur when the chapter was still new.

Don't forget us, Mary. We won't forget you! And thank you to everyone else who attended.



Getting the Facts Right: Help tell Our History

By Mo Blumenthal

The Air Force Armament Museum Foundation and Museum are in need of volunteers to serve in various capacities at the Museum. If interested, please contact the Museum Director, George Jones, at 882-4189.

Are Effectiveness and Economy the Same? (cont.)

Continued from page 1

gain support for the State of Florida's effort to reverse the Air Force Materiel Command consolidation effort. So, I say, you don't want to miss this briefing. This is our opportunity to show the strength of our local leadership and make our presence known. Make your reservations now. There is strength in numbers.

AUXILIARY CORNER

Survivors of MOAA members have held a special place in the association since their addition to the ranks of then-TROA in 1975. Although the group receives the same level of membership benefits as officer members, auxiliary members have never had the opportunity to vote in MOAA's board of directors elections or officially make their voices heard on national platform issues. That status should change this year. In August, the general membership will have the opportunity to vote on approving a change to the MOAA bylaws that would grant auxiliary members full voting rights.

Several efforts in the past have examined this issue. In 2003, the Auxiliary Membership Working Group evaluated MOAA's chapter policies using focus groups and member surveys. The group released a report to MOAA's board of directors detailing their findings after a year of research. The decision was made to not pursue a change to the association's bylaws, but the board of directors did approve the creation of a special advisory group you know today as the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC).

Since 2004, the AMAC has served the MOAA membership in an advisory capacity to the board of directors, and the success of the committee helped put the voting issue back on the table in 2011. An ad hoc study committee, formed in July, reported back on its findings to the board of directors in October 2011. The committee used extensive demographic data and input from major stakeholders such as the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee, the AMAC, and various other chapter leadership groups to support their unanimous recommendation that auxiliary members as soon as possible should be granted full voting privileges at the national level.

Auxiliary members make up about 17 percent of the association's One Powerful Voice® and play key roles in leadership at all levels of the association. This summer, the general membership will have the opportunity to make its voice even stronger by granting auxiliary members the right to vote in official MOAA matters. Current voting members should look for the national ballot in the August issue of *Military Officer*. (Source: MOAA *The Affiliate*)

(Editor's note: According to the current NWFMOA Bylaws, auxiliary members enjoy full voting rights and can hold any elected position on the board of directors.)

Thoughts from the Starting Block (cont.)

Continued from page 4

employment is very important and if we don't encourage talent to stay in this area, it will be recruited elsewhere. The best way to invest in the future is develop the opportunity in the present. Have a great month ahead - I'll see you around! Jeff

Legislative Musings (cont.)

Continued from page 4

month for individual coverage. Starting in 2014, members of Congress and their staffs will be required to participate in the health care exchanges created under national health care reform.

3) Legislators receive free health care at military facilities such as Walter Reed. **Fiction.** Members of Congress can receive care at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but the cost of such care is billed to their federal insurance.

4) Congress votes themselves pay increases every year. **Mostly Fiction.** The law authorizes Congress a raise every year unless legislators vote to stop it. Congress voted to forgo a pay raise in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Congressional pay increases are capped lower than the military raise. While military raises are tied to the average American's (the Employment Cost Index), congressional raises are capped one-half percentage point below that. In 2012 members of Congress will collect a salary of \$174,000 (Congressional leaders receive more). (Source: MOAA News Exchange, 25 Jan 2012)

Bumper Sticker Seen on Military Installation

"Artillery Brings Dignity to What Would Otherwise Be Just A Vulgar Brawl"

Chaplain's Column (cont.)

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thing. The days become longer, the weather warms, and moods are lightened. On the way to Spring and Summer, there is one day that hovers on the threshold between Winter and Spring. The Vernal Equinox, sometimes called the "Spring Equinox" or "Spring Solstice," is the day that brings us as close as we come to equal hours of daylight and nighttime. It is a good day to forgive all that is past, and look forward to the future with openness of heart and mind. As the days become longer, allow them to fill with love and joyful anticipation.

The Vernal Equinox is March 20 this year. Mark it on your calendar. Greet everyone you meet with an open heart and gratitude. If you have any strained relationships, let the score be evened on that day as surely as the hours of day and night are reconciled. The space this creates in mind and heart lengthens the hours available for joy as surely as the Vernal Equinox signals the lengthening of daylight hours in the world.

Aap aye bahaar aye. You have come, and with you has come Springtime. Let it be Springtime at least every year, no matter what sort of a Winter has gone before.

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Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your ☐ name, ☐ phone number or ☐ email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to The Defender for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

****The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.**

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining in 2012
receive membership through December
31st of next year for **\$25.00.**

Membership Renewal
1 yr - \$25.00, 2 yr - \$48.00, 3 yr - \$65.00
Life Membership Dues**

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91 - 95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86 - 90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81 - 85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76 - 80	195.00	-50	395.00

Auxiliary Members

Pay one half of the above rates