



USAF MSC Association **NEWSLETTER**

December 2004

Officers and other key contacts

Col Steven C. Mirick
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Col Frank G. Rohrbough
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LtCol Arthur H. Small
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Letter Editor
Capt William M. Copeland
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Chairman Emeritus

From the Chairman of the Board-

Fellow Members:

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season and have a great 2005. Hopefully, your plans for the year include attending our biennial USAF MSC Association Reunion in San Diego from 14-16 October. It will be a fun event and a great opportunity to meet former colleagues and meet others who feel as you do about our Air Force Medical Service career. I hope to see you there.

If you haven't heard, our president Frank Rohrbough retired in November from the Military Officers Association of America (formerly The Retired Officers Association). Frank performed outstanding service for MOAA in government affairs. He played a significant role in legislation benefiting all military personnel such as TRICARE for Life, the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy program and the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. I've had the privilege of working with Frank in The Military Coalition and its Healthcare Committee. He will be missed in Washington.

Frank and Diane relocated to their retirement home in Boerne, Texas outside of San Antonio. I join our membership in thanking them for their service to their country and wishing them happiness in this new phase of their life travels. I also look forward to greater things from Frank for the MSC Association since he will have more time on his hands!!

As you know, the USAF MSC Association fulfills its mission with volunteers. We are always seeking volunteer assistance from members. Art Small, our newsletter Editor and a member of the Board of Directors, has informed us he would like to relinquish his newsletter duties. He has done an outstanding job as editor and have been fortunate to have his skills for almost eight years. We are looking for a volunteer to become the editor of *USAF MSC Association*

Newsletter. If you have some desk publishing skills or are willing to learn them, and the time, please volunteer. The newsletter is published 3-4 times each year. Board officers and other members assist in providing input. Art has volunteered to assist the new editor to make the transition easy. He would like to have this process complete by the October reunion. If you would like to volunteer or have further questions about the duties contact Art (asmall1@nycap.rr.com).

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Ralph Charlip, our association secretary. Ralph was the recipient of the AMSUS Ray E. Brown Award at the AMSUS Annual Meeting in Denver. This award recognizes outstanding accomplishments in Federal Health Care Management. Ralph was cited for his outstanding service to Federal beneficiaries and Federal health care programs. He continues his excellent work in his current career in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Congratulations, Ralph!

Warm regards,

Steve Mirick

From the President

Fellow Members: I hope that you had a wonderful Holiday Season and wish each of you the best throughout 2005. With the Presidential Election over and the War on Terrorism still very much on our minds, I pray that 2005 will be a better year for each of you and for our nation's and the free world's security in the year ahead. I know you join me in saluting the great service of our men and women who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and other hot spots throughout the world. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their service to our country and seeking the freedoms of others they serve.

It's been a year that I have served as your President. We continue to plan for our biennial meeting that is coming up in October 2005. To get broader attendance, we surveyed the membership last spring and learned from the respondents that they think the meetings in the past have been on target with what the membership wants - a well planned event that allows attendees to enjoy the camaraderie of other retirees while enjoying the tourist attractions in the local area. According to the survey, you preferred San Diego, so the Board selected that as our meeting site in October 2005. Ken Mackie has taken the lead for this meeting and found us a grand hotel at a fair price. For more details see his report in this newsletter. **We hope you will join us and make plans to attend this first ever meeting on the west coast.** With all that San Diego has to offer, we expect that you will find the reunion to be great fun for all.

The membership of the Association will be electing five members of the Board of Directors at the 2005 reunion. We must begin the process of selecting candidates to fill these positions. Col (Ret) Ben Daughtry, Col (Ret) Nick Nicholson and Col (Ret) Bob Hauser have graciously agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The slate of candidates will be provided in the Summer (August) issue of the Newsletter. Members who are unable to attend the meeting will be invited to complete an absentee ballot and mail it back to the Association Secretary (Ralph Charlip).

Members who want to be considered for the Board and serve a four year term (2006-209) are invited to send an e-mail to the Secretary, Ralph Charlip at AFMSCASSOC@aol.com **not later than 15 March 2005**. Alternatively, letters may be addressed to Ralph at: USAF MSC Association, Inc., 1006 Rosemary Street, Denver, CO 80230-7089. Please include your name, grade, education, professional experience (military and civilian), experience on boards/committees similar to the Association, and a brief statement (not more than one page) as to why you want to serve on the Board. Please follow that format as it will make reading your application easy for the membership if you are nominated. Ralph will pass your application to the Nominating Committee.

Because much of the work of the Board of Directors is conducted electronically, it is highly desirable that candidates have computer/e-mail capability including the ability to download documents. We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your willingness to serve the Association.

On a personal note, I retired from MOAA on November 1st and Diane and I had a good move to our new home about 10 miles north of Boerne, TX (which is located 30 miles northwest of San Antonio). We are pretty settled in now. It's great to be closer to family, especially the grandchildren.

Diane joins me in wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. God Bless you and God Bless America.

Frank Rohrbough

Mark Your Calendar - San Diego, 14-16 October 2005

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the Biennial Reunion and Business Meeting of the Air Force MSC Association to be held this time in beautiful San Diego, California! Plan on arriving on Thursday afternoon/evening (13 October) and departing Monday morning or afternoon (17 October). It's not too early to get those really good air fares locked in!

We have signed the contract with the Marriott San Diego Mission Valley Hotel, located at 8757 Rio San Diego Drive. This is an absolutely first-class property in an ideal setting. It was selected for its central location, beauty, outstanding facilities and responsiveness to our needs. This Marriott is just 12 minutes from San Diego Airport. The San Diego trolley stops directly behind the hotel providing easy access to all that Mission Valley has to offer including its two fantastic shopping malls. It also continues on into Old Town where it connects to downtown, the waterfront and on to Tijuana Mexico.

A new attraction in San Diego is the USS Midway museum, a WWII and Cold War attack aircraft carrier. If you've never been aboard one of these huge vessels, this is your chance.

The Marriott has a set aside for us a block of 80 rooms at the special rate of \$109+tax. Although it's a bit early now to make reservations, the Spring newsletter will advise when time is right and rooms will be allocated on a first-come basis. If initial interest suggests a need for a larger block, we will negotiate with the Marriott to that end.

This will be the first West Coast event for our association and we are absolutely confident it will be a winner!

KUDOS

There is a new laboratory accreditation law in Michigan, and it's named for one of our own. The V. Harry Adrounie Laboratory Data Quality Assurance Act became law in July 2004 and, according to one of its legislative sponsors, it honors "a strongly committed scientist" whose "dedication and perseverance made this law."

Lt. Col. Adrounie (USAF, Ret.), an expert in public health and environmental issues, pioneered and nurtured the idea for a laboratory accreditation program because, he explained, "without proper laboratory results you never know what's going to happen, especially in these days with (the threat of) bio-terrorism." There was resistance to enacting this legislation and it took 15 years before he saw the idea finally become law. But he says: "I never got discouraged. Whatever you're doing, if it's worthwhile, you should never give up."



State Senator Patricia L. Birkholz presents a copy of the bill to V. Harry Adrounie.

Veterans' Day Adventure By Sheila Small

This is a somewhat different letter, detailing our Veterans' Day adventure. I have this feeling that it reads somewhat like a tear-jerker Hallmark Theater presentation, but, hey, that's the way it was!

It all started because daughter Allison, besides teaching high school French in Mobile, is also a lieutenant in the Alabama State Defense Force. That organization plays an integral part in the annual Veteran's Day parade. So since Allison was going to march in the parade she invited her Dad - who's retired from not only the US Air Force but from the NY State Guard, as well - to join her. Art was very flattered and very enthusiastic. So he packed his uniform and off we flew to Mobile. Allison picked us up at the airport and brought us home with her. When we got into her house we put our bags down and suddenly other people appeared yelling "Surprise!" It was our daughter-in-law who had driven all the way from Orlando with our two youngest grandsons (5 and 6-year-olds) so they could watch grandpa march in the Veteran's Day Parade and so they could learn about why veterans are so honored. Work kept our son behind in Orlando, but his in-laws rode along to help out. The surprise was an overwhelming success!

The next day when we set out for the parade those little boys were visibly impressed at seeing grandpa in full Air Force uniform with a chestful of ribbons. And we were all warmed when Allison, in fatigues, stood to attention and saluted her Dad. Later, when he rode down the parade route in a military vehicle the boys cheered lustily and waved their flags and Art smiled as broadly as I've ever seen him smile. And the boys cheered and waved, too, when their aunt came by driving an Army truck. We all took turns explaining to Matthew and Jonathan the meaning of the day, the reasons for honoring those who have served, and trying to give answers to difficult questions. They learned a lot, and so did we.

It was a Veterans' Day to remember.

TAPS

LtCol Ronald C Force, 20July

Major Lee M Garriott, 27 July

Captain Robert F Deitrich

Col Emmett A Thornell 9 Dec 04

Col Bert Vignes Nov 04

LtCol Charles L Hite

From the Secretary's desk

Just a reminder that as we start 2005, dues for the new year are due. Please send your payment to the MSC Association, 1006 Rosemary St, Denver CO 80230. This might be a good time for some of you to consider Life Dues -- which are payable in quarterly installments.

USAF MSC ASSOCIATION, INC.
1006 Rosemary Street
Denver, Colorado 80230-7089

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL FORM

Date: _____ Phone Number _____

Name: _____ Rank: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Applicant's
DOB _____

Email address: _____

Date of Retirement (if retired), or date of retirement eligibility: _____

Is this a **NEW** application or a **RENEWAL** (circle one)

Current status: Active Duty USAFR/ANG Retired

Dues Payment Plan: Annual - **\$20.00** Life - **See schedule below**

Declaration: I (**agree**) (**do not agree**) to my name, address, phone number, spouse's name and email address being released to other members of the USAF MSC Association.

(Signature of Applicant) _____ (Date) _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

(Payable in Four Quarterly Installments)

<u>Age in Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Over 85	Waived
81 - 85	\$60
76 - 80	\$80
71 - 75	\$200
66 - 70	\$250
61 - 65	\$295
56 - 60	\$335
51 - 55	\$360
50 & under	\$395

Send completed application **with dues payment** to;

Lt Colonel Ralph Charlip Association Secretary, address at top of page. (Make check payable to: USAF MSC Association)