

Northwest Florida Military Officers Association, Inc. FL Chap #19
MOAA Chapter Award: Levels of Excellence
May 2009

SECTION I—"OBJECTIVE" SCORING

1. All elected members of MOAA ----- YES
2. % of Regular Membership Who are members of MOAA – 96%
3. Current Membership Roster provided to Dept. of Council and Chapter Affairs during year of competition----- YES, Electronically
4. Did chapter submit an updated Chapter Officer List during year of competition—YES
5. Does chapter have a designated “Legislative Liaison” with E-mail address?—YES
6. Does the chapter have a designated “Chapter E-Mail Point of Contact?”—YES
7. Did chapter sponsor at least programs/events during the year of competition?-YES
8. Did the chapter publish at least 6 newsletters during the year of competition?--YES

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SECTION II – “SUBJECTIVE” SCORING

Did the chapter conduct a “pro-active” legislative affairs program during the year of competition?

Yes. NWFMOA Legislative Affairs continued to conduct a program of close contact with our state and national congressional delegations. We’ve worked closely with our congressman and his staff in introducing a bill to provide a VA hospital wing adjacent to the Eglin AFB hospital. “Legislative Affairs” is a much-read column in our monthly newsletter.

We also had an Auxiliary member keeping us abreast of progress of SBP/DIC legislation and keeping members informed and encouraging them to WRITE, WRITE, and WRITE to their congressional representatives.

Was an active chapter recruiting/retention program conducted during the year of competition?

Yes. Emphasis has been placed on active duty and newly arriving officers. Our newsletter and copies of the MOAA magazine, along with a tri-fold flyer outlining our chapter activities, are passed out at newcomers’ orientations at Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field. One of our members attends these meetings. The “Give Me Ten” efforts recruited 42 new members to MOAA and many to our chapter. A welcoming letter is sent to new members that outlines our activities and key dates to remember. Although the 7th Special Forces Brigade is not scheduled to arrive at Eglin AFB until 2010, we’ve already assigned a member who has established a dialogue with a staff officer at Fort Bragg.

Does the chapter have an established “Personal Affairs” program?

Yes. We have a Personal Affairs Officer and a standing committee. We provided counseling and assistance to bereaved spouses and members and have an “In Memoriam” column in our monthly newsletter. A yearly special free breakfast for members and spouses is presented by a local retirement home. After our meeting they provide a briefing on the facilities and amenities of their home. This gives us an excellent opportunity to provide a MOAA “Help Your Survivors” magazine to members and spouses who do not regularly attend meetings.

Did the chapter actively engage in programs/projects that enhanced the image of the chapter and MOAA during the year of competition? Scholarship initiatives, either local or in support of MOAA National. Support of local ROTC/JROTC programs, if they are available

Yes. The NWFMOA chapter is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters. We regularly attend and participate in state-level meetings.

NWFMOA is proud of our very active scholarship program. The scholarship fund is managed by a corporation founded by our members, and is supported by proceeds from our annual military ball, 50/50 raffles at our monthly meetings, contributions to memorialize deceased members and friends (with recognition in our monthly newsletter), by our “100 CLUB” composed of dedicated members who have pledged to contribute \$100 per year for a period of 5 years, and by periodic contributions from

individuals. The fund has exceeded its initial \$100,000 target, and is still growing toward its self-perpetuating goal.

Scholarship awards presented annually include \$100 savings bonds and MOAA medals to the top junior in the JROTC program in each of our five Okaloosa County High Schools. The top senior JROTC student in each school receives a \$200 savings bond and the opportunity to compete for a \$3,000 scholarship award. The latter award is presented in two annual increments, and is contingent upon the student being enrolled in one of the Services' ROTC programs and continues his/her college education.

In addition, the Choctawhatchee High School JROTC advisor is a member of our chapter and his Cadets provide the color guard at our monthly meetings and escort service and color guard at our annual military ball.

“Civic” activities, to include interaction with local military installations if they exist.”

Yes. Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field (Hq AF Special Operations Command) deploy a large number of personnel to the on-going war against terrorism in the Middle East. A continuing program of planeside meeting and greeting these war fighters has been very well received and enhanced the image of MOAA and our local chapter. In 2008 we attended eight of these events. Our members participate in all Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Military Appreciation Day functions in the local area.

By holding our monthly breakfast meetings at the Eglin AFB Officers Club we have an excellent opportunity to personally interact with the base's senior leadership and make them aware of our mission and concerns. They have been very receptive to our comments.

One of our members took the initiative to get approval from Eglin AFB to erect a memorial to a Coast Guard man who was killed in a rescue operation in local waters on Eglin AFB land. He also acquired the donations and services that were necessary to make this memorial a reality. The memorial is very visible to anyone passing through the Destin Pass.