



Sergeants Major Association Newsletter

Sergeants Major Association Newsletter • Volume XXXII Number 1 • January 2010



Presidents Corner:

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to improve our organization and seek ways to make it even better in the years to come. My re-election as the SMA President is a humbling experience. Realizing the confidence and trust the SMA membership has in me, has bolstered me to strive to make this an even more pertinent and vital

organization for our soldiers, airmen and families.

I'd also like to congratulate our other newly elected SMA Officers: **MSG (Ret) Lorie Clayton, Vice President; CSM Ronald Cabrera, Southern Chapter Vice President; and SFC David Coss, Quartermaster.** All are highly qualified, competent senior NCOs who bring much enthusiasm, initiative, technical and commercial contacts; not to mention new and fresh ideas to keep the organization on the cutting edge and in touch with both our active and retired members.

A big thank-you and tons of appreciation to **SGM Felix Soto**, our former Quartermaster, for a job well done. SGM Soto contributed many years and dedicated time and efforts in promoting our organization. **Also, let's welcome SGM Felix Soto and SGM Linda Korbelt home.** They just returned from another deployment. From what I hear, they did a fantastic job on this deployment as well.

I must take a moment to recognize and extend our deep appreciation to **MSG (Ret) Ken Wahl and SFC (Ret) Chuck Massicotte.** Without their continued dedication, selflessness and tireless service to our soldiers, we would be adrift! In addition, I would like to give thanks to the Southern Chapter for a successful Annual Conference at the Anaheim Sheraton in October 2009. On behalf of all attending, I would like to extend my appreciation to our guest speaker, **BG Charlotte Miller** for addressing our group and delivering a message that was not only strategically informative,



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Sergeants Major Association
Mid-Year Meeting
26-28 February 2010
Camp San Luis Obispo
Registration Form Enclosed
Make your room reservations NOW!
805-594-6500

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but pertinent to both our retired and active members. She gave an up-to-date perspective of our current OPTEMPO, the effects of the war has on our active members and what is coming down the road for our Guard forces. Brigadier General Miller is the California Army National Guard's newest GO. She and her husband, COL (Ret) Charles Miller, who also attended, participated in our Annual Conference.

Just a few words about or membership and recruiting efforts. I made a commitment to work tirelessly to increase "active" participation of the Cal-Guard's senior NCOs, to include both "Blue and Green Soldiers." "Active" involvement is essential if we are to continue to provide the crucial and timely support for our soldiers, airmen and their families. Increased membership assures the continued growth of our association; in the process, we regain the respect and prestige we once held as a very influential, pertinent organization that represents the NCO corps in the California National Guard!

Our recruiting efforts still need work. The new member totals for the year are too embarrassing to put into print. I know we can do better. If everyone gets on board and contributes their efforts to nurture our organization and return it to its previous stature. I envision our senior NCO corps taking an active role to recruit fellow senior NCOs in our units to get them involved. California has a total of 108 sergeants major (E-9) in the state; 44 are command sergeants major. One would think each and everyone of the most senior NCOs in the state

would be an active and participating member the California Sergeants Major Association, Inc. These NCOs, the elite members of the NCO Corps, can be the most actively engaged members of the organization, an organization whose primary reason for existence is to have a forum and platform to mentor, support and develop NCOs. The SMA, as any organization, is only as good as its active, engaged and supportive members, In order to reach the goal of 100% participation of our Air and Army Guard senior NCOs, we **NEED EVERYONE'S HELP!**

Reminder – All SMA members and enthusiastically encouraged to attend and participate in "Welcome Home Ceremonies / Yellow Ribbon Events" close to your HOR. Even if the local unit is one with which you do have a "history," go out, get involved and be part of the welcome home for our warriors returning from various theaters of operation to include Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. They and their families deserve our support and recognition for a job well done. Your participation provides and opportunity to welcome our returning warriors while assuring them that the SMA cares.

It is no secret that the Chaplain's Fund touches many soldiers and airmen in the CANG at some time in some way. This is especially so in time of financial need. Hopefully, you will continue to keep the California Guard's "safety net" in place through on-going contributions and support of this vital fund. Your Sustainment is always needed, especially during the current state of our economy.

Mark your calendar – 26-28 February 2010. The dates are fast approaching for the **SMA Mid-Year Conference at Camp San Luis Obispo, CA.** Make your billeting and/or RV reservations early. (See enclosed information sheet.) Come! Share your enthusiasm, ideas and take this opportunity to help shape the future of the California National Guard. It will be a great weekend in the company of the Cal Guard's "Old Guard," the titans from another era who look forward to an opportunity to also help shape the future guard by mentoring active members, sharing special memories, offering sage advice and sometimes just bring the "house down" with their antics and anecdotes. Sometimes even a few verbal "crossed-swords" action takes place. Bring your spouse so that they can get involved in the Auxiliary; bring your kids so that they can get to know the Guard's "brats." Remember to bring your Cal Guard friends. I count on all you pro-active M-Day members to get the word out and bring those senior NCOs from your battalions, brigades and wings out to participate in a valuable and enriching event.

One final note – the **Northern Chapter Vice President, CSM Vickie Dunlap-Jones** will deploy in the very near future. This will be her last appearance with us (if her schedule permits) until her return. So, please let her know, during this Mid-Year Conference, that her SMA family will pray for her safe return and that she will surely be missed.

1SG Reggie Jones
President



Donate to the Chaplain's Fund

Individual and group donations to the Chaplain's Fund are greatly appreciated.

Please send donations to:

SMA Chaplain's Fund, c/o SFC Charles Massicotte
7785 La Mirada Circle, Buena Park, CA 90620-2306

Southern Chapter:

Greetings and Happy New Year to all from Southwest Asia. I hope that this edition finds everyone well and looking forward to a prosperous 2010.

As the 2009 Year-of-the-NCO concluded, it impressed me to see deployed NCOs in action and taking care of each other. Given a mission and the NCOs to lead, produced measurable results. I was also very impressed by the outpouring of support from home by caring Americans whom I never met. It made a point on how we take care of one another.

There are several veteran organizations that represent today's warriors and those who have retired. The Sergeants Major Association, Inc. (SMA) is one of the prominent entities of how soldiers take care of soldiers. With the new generation of veterans filing the ranks, we must stand together and keep abreast of matters that affect our quality of life. Professional organizations, such as the SMA, strive to be on the forefront. When unforeseeable financial circumstances impact a soldier, the SMA Chaplain's Fund is there to assist those who qualified. The SMA, unconditionally, looks out for our best interest and our future.

Every year should be a Year-of-the NCO with NCOs supporting each other. As part of your New Year's resolution, join an organization that represents the California Army and Air National Guard. As your Southern Chapter Vice President, I welcome your questions and comments at Ronald.d.cabrera@us.army.mil and look forward to meeting new members when I return from deployment.

The best to you and your loved ones in 2010.

CSM Ron Cabrera

Vice President, Southern Chapter

Central Chapter:

I sincerely hope that all members had a wonderful holiday season. I volunteered to take the VP Central Chapter responsibilities in the spring of 2009. Since then, the only real focus has been the upcoming Annual Conference that central is responsible to host in October 2010. Thus far, other than some initial first contacts, little has gone forward on Conference 2010. I hope to use this forum to solicit other Central Chapter members for help on this project. I cannot accomplish this task alone and will not try. I will enjoy and appreciate any and all help in the conference preparation and execution. Feel free to contact me with any suggestions, help or ideas at your earliest convenience. Central has the talent to accomplish a successful conference but it will take the help of all the Central Chapter membership.

CSM Bruce Mehringer

Vice President, Central Chapter



Patriot's Corner: Hand Salute

Excerpt from the FY09 National Defense Authorization Act was signed by President Bush on 14 October 2008.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Print) SEC. 1081. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being held over the heart;

*Extracted from
<http://forums.military.com>*



2009 State Legislative Report:

Following is a list of California legislation that is/was of interest to our Guard members:

- SB 815 by Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Fresno) AB X 4 12 – signed into law 28 July 2009. This is now known as the California National Guard Education Assistance Program (CNGEAP).
- SB 361 by Senator George Runner (R-Antelope Valley) – This is a clarification of SB 272 in 2007.
- AB 59 by Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries (R-Riverside) -

Bills that were signed into law by the Governor:

- AB 59 – Jeffries (R) Alcoholic Beverages: Proof of Age: Military ID Cards
- AB 343 – Saldana (D) Pupils: Military Families
- AB 717 – Cook (R) Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
- AB 1463 – Smyth (R) High School Graduation: Military Uniforms
- AB 1571 – Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee – Mental Health Services: County Plans: Veterans
- ACR 12 – Wright (D) National Purple Heart Trail – Chartered by the Secretary of State
- SB 285 – Wright (D) Disability Benefits
- SB 361 – Runner G (R) Public Postsecondary Education: Armed Forces Service
- SB 469 – Ananestad (R) Veterans Cemeteries: Fees
- SB 818 – Senate Veterans Affairs Committee - State Military Museum and Resource Center

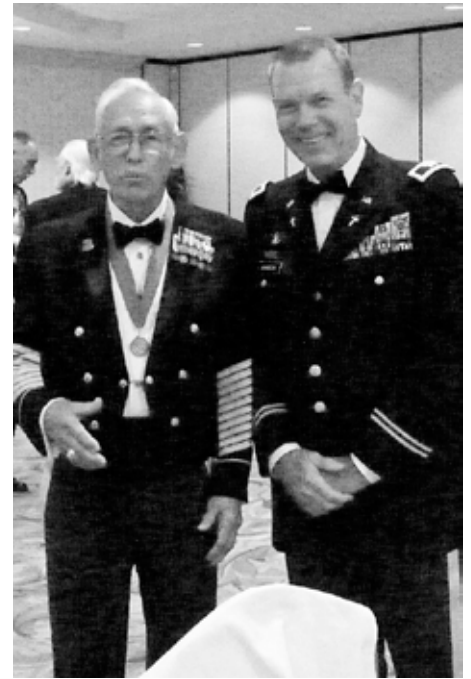
Bills that were vetoed by the Governor:

- AB 716 – Huber (D) Veteran Services: State Agencies
- SB 645 – Denham (R) Public Higher Education: Training Programs

Bills that failed or became two-year Bills:

- AB 38 – Salas (D) Postsecondary Education: Resident Classification: Vets
- AB 196 – Assembly Budget Committee – Emergency Services
- AB 223 – Ma Physical Education: Junior ROTC
- AB 308 – Cook (R) Special Absentee Voters
- AB 351 – Salas (D) Physical Education: High School
- AB 674 – Salas (D) Deferred Entry of Judgment: Public Safety
- AB 710 – Yamada (D) Department of Veterans Affairs Consult
- AB 1077 – Anderson (R) Exclusion from Gross Income
- AB 1340 – Lowenthal B (D) Special Absentee Voters
- AB 1367 – Fletcher (R) Elections: Vote by Mail Ballots
- AB 1378 – Perez V (D) Workforce Investment Board: Veterans' Workforce Program
- AB 1569 – Salas (D) Physical Education

- SB 15 – Cedillo (D) Student Financial Aid: Members of Armed Forces
- SB 423 – Senate Veterans Affairs Committee – Veterans: Educational Assistance: Dependents
- SB 582 – Dutton (R) Vote by Mail Voting: Military Personnel
- SB 611 – Correa (D) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant A: Veterans
- SB 646 – Denham (R) Student Financial Aid: Veterans and Dependents
- SB 647 – Denham (R) National Guard Education Assistance Award Program
- SB 815 – Cogdill (R) Student Financial Aid Program: National Guard
- SB 817 – Senate Elections, Reappointment and Constitutional Amendments Committee – Elections: Special Vote by Mail Voter



IN MEMORIUM

CSM (Ret) DENNIS BANNON

SMA - EANGUS

January 28, 1950 – October 30, 2009

SGM (Ret) RAY V. RISI

SMA Charter Member

30 January 1919 – 5 December 2009

Their memory lives on in the Associations in which they served for so many years. Their loss will be felt not only by their peers and friends but also by the many who never knew them, yet were still influenced to be better Soldiers and leaders because of their leadership, wisdom, and devotion to duty.



SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, Inc. 42nd TERM 2009-2010 DIRECTORY

www.smaofcalifornia.org

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CHAPTER V.P. CENTRAL *CSM Bruce Mehringer mehringeresm@yahoo.com	763 Spencer Street Monterey, CA 93940	(HM) 831-649-1532 (Cell) 831-601-4742
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BOARD of TRUSTEES

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APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT

CHAPLAIN MSG (Ret) ROBERT EMBREY kd6dkv@earthlink.net	16547 Masline Street Covina, CA 91722-1100	(HM) 626-339-3402
QUARTERMASTER *SFC David Coss	3187 Fine Avenue Clovis, CA 93612	(Cell) 559-392-4016

**SMA OFFICERS
2009-2010**

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MSG (Ret) Lorie Clayton

Treasurer

SFC (Ret) Charles Massicotte

Recording Secretary

SGM Linda Korbel

Chapter V.P. South

CSM Ronald Cabrera

Chapter V.P. Central

CSM Bruce Mehringer

Chapter V.P. North

CSM Vickie Dunlap-Jones

SMA Newsletter

**Published by the Sergeants Major
Association of California, Inc.**

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CSM (Ret) John Dearing

Publisher and Printer

“We, the Sergeants Major of the California National Guard, being desirous of improving the status and image of the National Guard and promoting the well-being, welfare and qualifications of the enlisted members of the National Guard, dedicate ourselves to maintaining the professionalism required of us and pledge ourselves to the creed.”

Join the SMA

Application For Membership: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor: _____

Name/Rank: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

SSN: _____ Date of Birth _____

Basic Pay Entry Date: _____

Unit: _____

Military Status: M-Day Tech AGR Retired

Branch of Service: Army Air Force Other _____

Dates of Service: _____

Beneficiary: _____

Beneficiary Relationship: _____

Address of Beneficiary: _____

Please enter dates in this format: Jan 01 2010

Regular Members fill out this application and enclose it with a payment of \$50.00 to cover initiation fee and one year's dues.

NEW!

Associate Members fill out this application and enclose it with a payment of \$100.00 to cover one year's dues.

Mail to:

Sergeants Major Association Of California, Inc.

7785 La Mirada Circle, Buena Park, CA 90620-2306

Associate Membership Now Available

Associate Membership is available to those individuals not otherwise eligible for regular membership who share the goals and philosophy of the Association. Associate Members receive our newsletters and are invited as guests to our functions.

Annual dues are \$100.00 for Associate Membership.

We invite all those who support our Association to become Associate Members.



Tri-West Healthcare Alliance:

On 7 December 2009 the Chaplain's Fund received a much-needed "transfusion." In conjunction with the National Teen Leadership Program and the 40th Infantry Division Memorial Fund, **the Sergeants Major Association received a generous donation of \$31,000.00 for the Chaplain's Fund.** (See photo – 1SG Reggie Jones, SMA President, accepting the check from Karen E. Jones, Vice President Field Southwest Operations.) Stephen A. Cargill, Service Area Director, Northern California / Northern Nevada also attended the presentation at Joint Forces Headquarters, Sacramento, CA.

The Chaplain's Fund is administered by the Sergeants Major Association to assist soldiers and airmen who encounter a critical need for financial assistance. This assistance is rendered through loans, grants and/or outright subsidies. Individuals who find themselves in such a need, may work through their unit chain-of-command who will in turn contact the SMA E-Board who will review and rule on the disbursement of funds.

In the current economic times, many Guard members have encountered situations that necessitate financial assistance. The Chaplain's Fund has helped countless soldiers and airmen and is proud to be of service to our fine men and women.