



Sergeants Major Association Newsletter

Sergeants Major Association Newsletter • Volume XLIII Number 4 • November 2011



From left to right

SGM Carlos Fernandez - Central Chapter Vice President, MSG (Ret) Lorie Clayton, President, SGM Adam Walker, Vice President, CSM Andres Roman, Northern Chapter Vice President, ISG (Ret) Ken Wahl, Trustee, SGM Linda Korbel, Secretary, SFC (Ret) Chuck Massicotte, Treasurer, CSM Ronald Cabrera, Southern Chapter Vice President, CSM (Ret) Robert Delaney, Senior Trustee, Missing from the picture - ISG Reggie Jones, Junior Trustee - Deployed

President's Corner:

It is my distinct honor to serve as the recently elected SMA president for 2012-2013. I look forward to working with the active and retired members of both the E-Board and general membership.

The 44th Annual Conference was held in Sacramento at the DoubleTree Hotel 7-9 October 2011. The weekend began with a Golf Tournament at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex on Friday morning. The \$1,800.00 raised from this event was donated to the SMA Chaplain's Fund. That evening we held a brief business meeting in the **SGM Doris J. Drennan** Educational & Conference Facility in the California Military Museum. **SGM (CA) Dan Sebby**, Curator, rendered

an informative and comprehensive guided tour of the Museum. The tour was followed by a reception hosted by the Northern Chapter in the **MG Walter P. Story** Memorial Library & Research Center. Representatives from other Military organizations attended this event which promoted good fellowship. (The next time you visit Sacramento, be sure to stop by and visit the California Military Museum in Old Sacramento.)

On Saturday morning we were privileged to have **MG David S. Baldwin**, the **Adjutant General** as well as **BG Donald J. Currier**, Cdr, ARNG brief the attendees on the current "State of the Guard." In addition, **CMSgt Debra J. Fordyce** rendered an Air Guard update. Other guest presenters included **CSM Andy Roman**, 40th I D (M); **SGM Adam Walker**, Fa-

cilities; **SGM (Ret) Larry Ellsworth**, Policy & Liaison; **SGM (CA) Dan Sebby**, CA Military Museum; **LtCol Lalley**, Family Programs; **ISG (Ret) Jeff Wright**, Bellevue University; **Ms. Mary Omler**, AAFES; and **Ms Christine Taylor**, ESGR. **Bellevue University, ESGR and GEICO** generously co-sponsored the afternoon refreshment break.

The highlight of the evening event was the presentation by **MG (Ret) Peter J. Gravett**, **Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs**. We also presented SMA "Gold Cards" to several long-standing, retired members.

Thank you to all who attended the conference. Good wishes to all and your families for a safe and happy Holiday Season. We look forward to our next gathering in February 2012 for the Mid-Year Meeting.

MSG (Ret) Lorie Clayton
President

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Vice President's Corner

It is my honor to be accepted as your newly elected Vice President of this outstanding association, I look forward to serving the great NCOs of this State. I shall keep you posted as to the details of the 2012 Mid-Year Conference

SGM Adam Walker,
Vice President

2012 Mid-Year Conference

Please note – A change of venue for the **2012 Mid-Year conference**. As the conference committee finalizes the logistics and administrative details, we want to alert you of the change of venue. We will conduct all of the events at **Camp Roberts 17-19 February 2012**. Details, registration form and information sheet will appear in the next edition of the SMA Newsletter



SSG Demetrius D. Mc Gowan
ARNG NCO of the Year

SSG Alexander P. Christensen
SMR NCO of the Year

SPC Cristina M. Pernaz-Ortiz
SMR Soldier of the Year

MISSING FROM PICTURE:
SPC John M. Cunningham
ARNG Soldier of the Year



SMA New Annual Members

We wish a warm welcome to the following new members who joined after July 31st.

NAME	UNIT	SPONSOR	DATE
1SG Ken Baker	HHC, 749TH CSSB	CSM Dunlap	2 Aug 2011
1SG Refugio Rosas, Jr.	746TH CSSB	CSM Dunlap	23 Aug 2011
SFC David Dieu	JFHQS-CA	SFC Atwood	12 Sep 2011
SFC Michael Howard	HHC 340TH BSB	CSM Chapman	15 Sep 2011
1SG Jeremy Dixon	Div Sig Co 40ID	Self	15 Sep 2011
SGM (Ret) John Lamb	JFHQ - A T F	SGM Tim Smith	9 Oct 2011
SFC Tracy Snyder	HHD JFHQS (Civ Ed)	Self	9 Oct 2011
SFC Bobby Whitaker	330TH MP CO	CSM Shields	24 Oct 2011

Associate Members

SSG Janet Santiago-Bretado	HSC 640TH ASB	CSM Foose	5 Sep 2011
SGT Ricardo Bretado	HSC 640TH ASB	CSM Foose	5 Sep 2011

We look forward to having you and your sponsors join us at the SMA Mid-Year Meeting 17-19 February 2012 at Camp Roberts.

Northern Chapter Corner

Greetings and salutations! I hope that you are all doing well and had an enjoyable summer. I was recently voted in as the Northern Chapter Vice President. Over the past several years I have seen a steady down turn in the attendance of active drilling members at our SMA meetings. As a Senior NCO and active Guardsman, I find this disturbing. As the newly elected VP I would like to see Northern and all members of the Association take a more active role in the SMA. While your financial participation is appreciated, I feel your active participation is just as important, if not more so. As a member of the SMA you have an opportunity to voice your concerns and help to establish policies that affect your Soldiers and their families. It is my intent to change the way we do business and the agenda scheduled for upcoming SMA conferences. What I propose is that the agenda be geared more towards today's needs with regards to Soldier care, NCOERs, EPS and training best practices. With your support and voting power, we can get this done. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you at the upcoming meeting scheduled for 17-19 February 2012 at Camp Roberts.

Regards,

CSM Andres Roman

Vice President, Northern Chapter



Central Chapter Corner

Welcome home once again for another group of soldiers who returned from abroad. Fourteen soldiers who deployed with the Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit (ADMRU) returned to Fresno, CA on Thursday, 20 October 2011. Family and friends welcomed them home after their long journey. These soldiers supported the 40th Aviation Brigade while deployed. The ADMRU is the Headquarters element for the four Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMGs) in the country.

For those of you who attended the annual conference in Sacramento, I personally want to thank you. A special "thank you" goes to **SFC (Ret) Dixie Porter** who came all the way from Maryville, Tennessee. What a dedicated former soldier she is. Thank you, Dixie, for your inspiration to our organization.

After a long and demanding week in the foothills of Camp San Luis Obispo, the Best Warrior Competition concluded and named two soldiers as the Best Warriors in the State of California. The announcement of the winners' names (kept secret for a month) was made at the Wings, Wheels and Rotors show in Los Alamitos on Sunday, 23 October 2011. I am proud to say my NCO from A Co, 1106th TASMG won. **SSG Demetrius D. Mc Cowan** not only won for the best NCO in the state, but also claimed the titles of best combative and weapons. He now gets to prepare for the regional competition in April, where he tells me the "gloves are coming off". Congratulations to SSG Mc Cowan and his support team for a job well done. **SPC John M. Cunningham**, B Troop, 1-18th Cavalry won the best Soldier of the Year with two titles as well.



Central Chapter members - I implore you to remain active in this organization. Our conferences are important to this association and the costs need to be mitigated to some extent. Come and join us while supporting the cause of the SMA of CA. We must think back when we first joined this fraternity of brothers and sisters and relive the purpose of why we joined. For me it was to do face-to-face time with those who had my career in their hands. I wanted them to know the kind of soldier I am and to hopefully engage them into choosing me for the next positions that I would hold as a Sergeant Major. If you are retired, then let us young "bucks" ask you "how I get to where you were when you retired." Bottom line is, let's keep moving forward and stay strong. I need ideas to prevent us from becoming obsolete; like being the point of contact for NCO induction ceremonies etc... Let me know what you think.

SGM Carlos J. Fernandez

Vice President, Central Chapter

Chaplain's Fund Report

Since our last report in the August Newsletter, we have approved 17 requests (13 grants and 4 grant/loan combinations), for a total of \$13,624.00 paid out for the months of August, September and October. For the calendar year to date, we have helped 58 Soldiers, Airmen and families with a total of \$49,749.00 paid out through the end of October.

Again, the payments were to help with rent, utilities, auto repair, auto loans, insurance, food and incidental expenses.

Beginning Balance 1 Jan 2011		33,555.00
Donations	+	54,511.00
Repayments	+	9,813.00
Golf Tourney Receipts	+	3,485.00
Golf Tourney Expense	-	1,657.00
Payouts	-	49,749.00
Balance as of 31 Oct 2011	=	49,958.00

Chaplain's Fund Donors

Once more, we would like to thank those who have donated money to the Chaplain's Fund so that we can continue to help our Soldiers and Airmen who have short-term emergency financial crises.

Following are the names of individuals and organizations that have contributed \$100.00 or more since our last report: James Delk; Robert A. Johnson; Keith Jones; Frank A. Wolf; Military Dept Employees Council; John Mohon; Oran Roberts; SMA Auxiliary; Weaver Mortuary.

SFC (Ret) Chuck Massicotte, Treasurer

Swing for the Chaplain's Fund Golf Tournament

The "Swing for the Chaplain's Fund" Golf Tournament was held on Friday, October 7th, at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex in Sacramento in conjunction with this year's Annual Conference. Although attendance was down from previous events, the tourney was a great success for both the participants (who all had a great time as usual) and for the Chaplain's Fund. With gross receipts of \$3485.00, and expenses of \$1,657.00, the tournament netted over \$1,800 for the Chaplain's Fund.

These are the people and organizations that supported the Chaplain's Fund Golf Tournament as Tee Sponsors: 149th Armor Regiment; James Delk; Michael Davenport; Gerald Hargrove; Bruce Mehringer; John Mohon; So-Cal Advisory Council; Skip's One Stop Auto Parts; Andrew Strauss; USA Warrant Officers NOR-CAL Chapter; Genelle Valdivia.

SFC (Ret) Chuck Massicotte, Treasurer

Patriot's Corner

Five Myths About the American Flag
(2nd installment)

Myth #2 The red, white and blue colors symbolize American Sacrifice.

No federal law, resolution or executive order exists providing an official reason for the flag's colors – or their meaning. The closest thing to an explanation are the words of Charles Thomson, the secretary of the Continental Congress, who was instrumental in the design of the Great Seal of the United States. Thomson's report to Congress on June 20, 1782, the day the seal was approved, contained a description of the colors, the same as those in the flag: "White signifies purity and innocence, Red hardiness and valour and Blue ... signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice."

Various official documents and proclamations – including one by President Ronald Reagan marking 1986 as the "Year of the Flag" – have echoes that reasoning.

But the colors do not have, nor have they ever had, any official imprimatur. Historians believe that the use of red, white and blue in the Stars and Stripes has to do with the simple fact that they were the colors of the first flag of the American colonies, the Continental Colors. There is little doubt where the red, white and blue of the Continental Colors came from the Union Jack of England.

Extracted from **The Washington Post** by Marc Lepson

Myth #1 appeared in the August 2011 issue of the SMA Newsletter.

Myths 3-5 will appear in subsequent issues of the SMA Newsletter.

Southern Chapter Corner

The evening couldn't have been better as new and current members built friendships enjoying the ambience of the Fiddler's Green at JFTB, Los Alamitos on 10 September 2011. It was great to see **CSM Troy Eck** who recently returned from his third deployment and some of our newest members **ISG Refugio Rosas Jr.** and **SFC John K. Lee**. The input from the gathering helped to better serve our members and sparked ideas to improve the SMA and NCO Corps. Our newest members found it valuable to have time with retired Command Sergeants Major. Consider the wealth of experience at one table with three CSMs.

With this concept, the SMA South will formulate leadership series of events on selected drill weekends where all can listen to active and retired CSMs discuss their experience. Such a series is invaluable and will help Senior NCOs hone their career skills. If all goes according to plan, attendees can add applicable bullet comments to their NCOER having completing the SMA sponsored leadership training. **The first session will be January 7, 2012 1700-1830hrs on the JFTB hosted by CSM (Retired) Terry Williams** with a



panel of several retired CSMs. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to the SMA South Vice President at cabreraforcc@yahoo.com **NLT Jan 2nd.**

The economy has impacted us in some way as well as Soldiers and Airman. The Chaplain's Fund (CF) is a means to help those in need but care and prudence is vital to stretch dollars. Senior NCOs who submit requests must scrutinize the application for facts, accuracy and the applicant's good standing in the unit before submitting the request to the next level. For example, a recent application was submitted with severe lack of information and an invalid payee's phone number. There are many CF loans outstanding and the quest is on to recoup money to help others. SMA VPs will work with the SMA Treasurer to contact Soldiers accordingly.

As 2011 comes to an end, congratulations to our new president **MSG (R) Lorie**

Clayton, Vice President **SGM Adam Walker** and Northern Chapter Vice President **CSM Andres Roman**. I'm excited to know we have key people committed to make a difference in the refinement of the CA ARNG NCO Corps.

SMA Vacation Tip: You can't beat the amenities of San Diego's military bases. There's a new Navy Lodge and impressive beach cottages with two bedrooms, a spacious living room and kitchen area. Each cottage sleeps six comfortably; all this for \$125.00 a night. You can book six months out. Check it out for yourself at www.mwrtoday.com or call 619-435-1227 / 524-0557.

Holiday Message: On behalf of the SMA and the Cabrera family, we wish you the best during the holiday season. If you can, invite a military service member to your holiday dinner table.

CSM Ron Cabrera
Vice President, Southern Chapter



SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, Inc. 44th TERM 2011-2012 DIRECTORY

www.smaofcalifornia.org

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* Denotes Change

November 2011

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2011-2012**

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SMA Newsletter

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

7785 La Mirada Circle
Buena Park, CA 90620-2306
Web Site: www.smaofcalifornia.org

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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: _____

Sponsored by: _____

New Member Name/Rank: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Cell _____ Date of Birth _____

E-Mail: _____

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 2011

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

Associate Members Please enter only your name, rank, mailing address, and spouse name, and enclose this application 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.



Sergeants Major Association
of California, Inc.
7785 La Mirada Circle
Buena Park, CA 90620-2306

Sergeants Major Association
Mid-Year Meeting
February 17-19th, 2012
Camp Roberts, California
Rooms available on Camp Roberts
Call billing at 805 238-8312