

“The Sword Fund” - Chapter 50’s support of NROTC Midshipmen

We have a tradition in our chapter that we call “**The Sword Fund**”. Each year, our chapter has been sending two Midshipmen to ROA’s Mid-Winter Meeting at Washington, DC and awarding an officer’s sword to the outstanding graduate of the NROTC program at our local universities. Last year we shared the expenses for Mid-Winter with the Department of Pennsylvania and went together with the Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League to provide the sword. Nevertheless, our share of these expenses totaled more than \$500. Our dues rebate from National can not cover this, and we rely on the generous support of our members. We need your support again this year. If you have not participated in **The Sword Fund** in the past, your contribution in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please send your tax deductible financial contribution to:

Capt. Richard Croll USNR (Ret)
1036 Betty Rae Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-3739

VA Hospital Picnic served by ROA and Navy League

Chapter 50, in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League, provided an outing and picnic lunch for patients at the VA long term care facility at Aspinwall on Saturday, 11 September. LCDR Dave Erdodi reports that there were 15 volunteers who helped with escorting the patients to the picnic area and serving the food. They



VA Hospital Patients Enjoy Picnic Served by ROA and NL

served about 170 hot dogs to 135 patients. The patients were extremely pleased with the food, prizes, and companionship. This is an annual event. It is our opportunity to bring some pleasure into the lives of our fellow veterans whose health has failed. We hope to have even more of our members participate next year.

Chapter 50 member CAPT Karen Trueblood “Citizen of the Year” in Whitehall

CAPT Karen Trueblood, USNR, was honored by her hometown of Whitehall, PA, as Citizen of the Year. She was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps in 1977 and has filled a series of important billets ever since. In the fall of 2001, she assumed command of the U. S. Marines 4th Medical Battalion and its 734 medical personnel, the first female and first nurse to command such a unit. In April 2003 she was deployed with her unit to Camp Coyote, Kuwait. She remained there until September 2003. In August 2004, when Whitehall honored her during its Community Day, Karen was in

Alaska with a Marine Reserve Unit building a road on a remote island. In civilian life she works full-time in constituent services in the district office of state Representative John Maher and part-time in the Mercy Hospital neo-natal care unit. She is married to Michael Trueblood, also a reservist with the PA Air National Guard. They have four children.

LTC Gross takes over as Dept. of PA Acting President due to mobilization and deployment of President LTC Tsouris

As reported in the fall issue of *Minuteman*, our department President, LTC Vincetta Tsouris, USAFR, has been mobilized and deployed overseas in the war on terror. LTC Denise Gross, USAR, our senior vice president/president elect has taken over as acting president for the interim.

Next Dept. of PA President-Elect to come from Naval Services

It will be the Naval Services turn to provide the senior vice president/president elect for the ROA Department of Pennsylvania at the state convention next April. Let us be sure that we have identified the person we want to nominate well in advance of this event and they are willing to serve.

The Department of Pennsylvania Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, 23 April 2005, at Boiling Spring, PA, hosted by PA Chapter 11.

Straight Gouge goes to 3 issues per year –Priority Notification List established

At a chapter meeting last spring we passed a resolution to publish Straight Gouge three times per year instead of four. The issues will be called Winter (due out in January), Spring-Summer (due out in May) and Fall (due out in September). Our activities for the year usually fall into this pattern, sort of like an academic calendar. We also found that even four issues a year did not provide a vehicle for prompt notification of group activities such as baseball games, picnics, and holiday gatherings. Our secretary, Dave Erdodi, has made a practice of notifying members who might be interested in such events by e-mail, phone, or notes in the mail. We want to formalize this into a **Chapter 50 Priority Notification List** so that we do not miss anyone who might be interested. Just send your name and e-mail address to Dave at derdodi@yahoo.com. If you do not do e-mail, send Dave a note with your address and phone number. His address can be found at the bottom of page 1. That way you can be sure to receive information on all Chapter 50 activities in a timely way.

Check out our Chapter 50 Web Site

Do you know that Chapter 50 has its own web site? The easiest way to find it is to go the Dept. of Pennsylvania site at www.roa.org/pa/. And then follow to links to “Dept. of PA Chapter Web Sites” and then to the “Chapter 50 Web Site”. By the way, our Department of PA web site received the prestigious BGEN David Sarnoff Award for web site excellence at last summer’s national convention.

Blame the Editor for late publication of Straight Gouge

You can blame me for the fact that this issue of Straight Gouge is coming out so late. I am trying to get my commitments organized so that I will have the time available for the newly agreed to publication dates of January, May, and September. I promise that the January issue will come out on time. So, send me any news you have, especially about activities of our members, before the New Year. We need your contributions to make this newsletter more interesting.

Bob Stoehr - editor

Straight Gouge is the authorized newsletter of PA Chapter 50 of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. It is published 3 times annually in January, May, and September. The editor is CDR R. A. Stoehr, USNR (Ret.). All correspondence related to *Straight Gouge* should be sent to the editor at 93 Country Club Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15241 or by e-mail to him at rastoehr@pitt.edu. Phone and fax: (412) 831-6485. Members are invited to submit articles or commentaries to be published in *Straight Gouge* on a space available basis. Commentaries express the views of the writer and not necessarily those of ROA, Chapter 50, or *Straight Gouge* or its editor. Anonymous commentaries will not be published. *Straight Gouge* is available on-line on the Chapter 50 Web site www.pitt.edu/~rastoehr/roa-pa/ch50home.htm. Send a notice to the editor to be removed from the *Straight Gouge* mailing list. Changes of mailing address should be reported to ROA national headquarters, because our mailing labels are printed from a list supplied by headquarters. The address is ROA HQ, 1 Constitution Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002-5633.