

A MILITARY OFFICERS'
PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION
CENTRAL COAST
OF CALIFORNIA
CHARTERED 1990



The Military Order of the World Wars

*Celebrating
Our Freedoms*

GENERAL HOYT S.
VANDENBERG
CHAPTER
#213



Website: MOWWVANDENBERG.ORG

Newsletter for September 2017

Header courtesy Erick Wand

Officers & Staff 2017-2018

CHAPTER COMMANDER

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SR VICE COMMANDER

Lt Ronald L. Janney, USNR (fmr)
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JR VICE COMMANDER

CPT Richard Hathcock, USA (fmr)
Past Commander
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ADJUTANT

Maj James L. Murphy, USMC, (Ret)
Past Commander
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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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MAJ Dan Dow, USAR
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MAJ Ernest B. Miller, MD USA (fmr)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

MAJ Dan Dow, USAR

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Lt Col Angel Ortiz, USA
COL Loren Weeks, USA (Ret)

Mailing Address:

108 Indio Drive, Shell Beach, CA
93449

Our Meetings

Are held at the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge #322,
Grazier Room, 222 Elks Lane

EXCOM (Exec Committee): 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 am

LUNCHEON MEETING: 3rd Wednesday at 11:30 am
\$20/person includes tax & gratuity

RSVP Please by the prior Sunday (at the latest)

Jim Murphy 805.528.7565 or

jlmurphy@calpoly.edu

Richard Hathcock 805.441.8673 or

dick02hathcock@yahoo.com

*We must convey expected attendance by 1000 hrs to the
Elks Lodge on Monday prior to the luncheon.*

CHAPTER LUNCHEON:

The September 20 chapter luncheon meeting will primarily be the formal induction of officers for the upcoming year: LTC Louis Stout, USA (ret) will step in as Commander, Maj Jim Murphy will fill in also as Adjutant, Lt Col Angel Ortiz and COL Loren Weeks will be Staff at Large members, and Maj Dan Dow will assume membership chair. The complete list of officers is shown in the sidebar.

We have lost 2 very key individuals this year, Chuck Ward and Jack Jones. Thanks to Ron Janney for stepping into the Commander role for the past several months.

Our chapter will have a joint meeting in October (13th) with the local chapter of the MOAA at the Madonna to have a **Celebration of Col Jack Jones' Life**. See the details on the next page and any updates will be via email from the Excom.

CELEBRATION OF COL JACK JONES' LIFE

COL Jack Jones touched the lives of many people and organizations. A program to remember and celebrate his many contributions will be held on **Friday October 13th** in the Garden Room at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo. This will be a joint meeting with the Central Coast Chapter of the MOAA and will be in place of our Wednesday, October 18th luncheon meeting.

If you would like to speak and share some memories of Jack, please let Ron Janney know.

This is a luncheon meeting and the cost per person will be \$25.00 payable at the door. Sign in will begin at 11:30 AM and the meeting will conclude at approximately 2:30 PM. Checks can be made payable to: CCCCMOAA

Please submit your RSVP by **October 6** along with the names of your guests by contacting any one of the following:

Ron Janney, ronaldjanney@gmail.com
Jim Murphy, 805-528-7565 jlmurphy@calpoly.edu
Dick Hathcock, 805-773-5850 or dick02hathcock@yahoo.com

We are looking forward to seeing you there for a very upbeat Celebration.

COMMANDER MESSAGE: LTC LOUIS STOUT, USA (RET)



As your Commander for this coming year, I recognize that I, and the members of our EXCOM, will have some very big shoes to fill. First we lost 1Lt Chuck Jones, our Commander, and most recently COL Jack Jones, two of our giants.

The Chapters challenge will be to continue the programs they initiated and meet the standards they established. For example, Chuck was the chief fundraiser and leader for special initiatives for our Chapter. This included the "Purple Heart Trail", the "American Heritage Monument" and the "Charles Paddock Zoo Statue" programs.

Jack has been our primary source of institutional knowledge, the primary contact with MOWW National, the lead for our 'Cal Poly ROTC Awards and Commissioning Ceremonies', the "Grizzly Youth Leadership Conferences", the "Monthly News Letter", and "Recruiting". His goal was to make us the outstanding Chapter from within California.

Looking forward to this next year, we will continue our agenda as outlined above, will provide interesting and informative speakers, will emphasize recruitment of new members, and will have fun. To this end, I encourage each member to bring a guest and potential new member to our luncheon. I will bring one or two.

Please note the attached Flyer on the Veterans Day (Nov 11) event at the Madonna...free lunch to veterans serving since 1975 & Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham's presentation of the SLO County vet of the year. Also refresh your memory of our Preamble on the last page of this newsletter.

ESSAYONS:
LTC Louis Stout, USA, (Ret.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER REPORT: Lt RON JANNEY, USNR (FMR)

ALL THE GALLANT MEN

A Memoir by USS Arizona Survivor

“At 8:06 AM on December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was consumed by an inferno. A million pounds of explosives had detonated beneath his battle station aboard the USS *Arizona*, barely fifteen minutes into Japan’s surprise attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor. Near death and burned across two thirds of his body, Don, a nineteen-year-old Nebraskan who had been steeled by the Great Depression and Dust Bowl, summoned the will to haul himself hand over hand across a rope tethered to a neighboring vessel. Forty-five feet below, the harbor’s flaming, oil-slick water boiled with enemy bullets; all around him the world tore itself apart.

In this extraordinary, never-before-told eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack--- the only memoir ever written by a survivor of the USS *Arizona*---ninety-four-year-old Donald Stratton finally shares his unforgettable personal tale of bravery and survival on December 7, 1941, his harrowing recovery, and his inspiring determination to return to the fight.”

The above quotation was taken from the inside dust jacket of the book written by Donald Stratton with Ken Gire. We all know of the attack, and what it meant to our country. If you have studied history, or read about the *Arizona*, you know that 1177 men from the *Arizona* men died as a result of the attack. We do not often, or maybe never, think about the survivors. There were not many, and this account from one of them is riveting. I could not put the book down once I started reading. It is well written, and gives some insight on not only what happened that day, but is a remarkable story of what Don Stratton went through during the healing process, and his return to active duty in the Navy after being discharged. On February 26, 1944 he went to Omaha to get back in the Navy. He served on a destroyer, the USS *Stack*. He saw action in the Third Fleet under Admiral Halsey at New Guinea, Leyte Gulf, and Okinawa.

This book is one that I highly recommend, whether you are a student of history or not.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REMARKS: Maj JIM MURPHY, USMC (RET)

MOWW 2017 Convention:

Billings, Montana

Technically the conference kicked off on Monday 31 July with a golf tournament. In fact the next two days were labeled as “Pre-convention Activities”.

I will keep my comments specifically to the Convention, however I actually departed San Luis Obispo area on July 23, and arrived in Billings on 1 August.

Background: Joe Brocato volunteered and assumed the post as Commander of MOWW Region XIV. He then asked if I would be his Vice Commander. I agreed. Joe then, in mid-July, resigned as Region Commander. That elevated me to the Commander position. A number of members of the organization reminded me of my “new” office. I strongly informed one and all that I would not assume the position as Regional Commander and they should seek another.

Still carrying the title, I attended sessions on 1 August, and before the convention was too far along, LtCol Dave Worley USAF (Ret) agreed to assume the role as Region Commander.

Tuesday 1 August 2017:

Various meetings from 0800 to 1650.

Morning: ExCom and Board of Trustees.

Afternoon: Almost three hours: Council of Area Commanders. I participated but mostly said little.

Wednesday 2 August 2017:

Day tour of local area, specifically Red Lodge (small town) and Beartooth Pass; two buses and one broke down on the way to the pass, effectively blocking traffic! We all crowded into the other bus and continued to the summit.

There was a Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter meeting; I have yet to figure who/what this group is or does. Members of this chapter are by invitation only and I wasn't invited.

Welcome buffet in the evening.

Thursday 3 August 2017:

Convention officially commences.

Day tour of Little Big Horn battle field and Pompey's Pillar. Worth the time and trip. Lewis and Clark, returning from their winter at Clatsop, Oregon and heading back to St. Louis, stayed at Pompey's Pillar, a sandstone outcropping where Meriweather Lewis scratched his name in the sandstone. Good Park Service guide for the battlefield.

While on this tour, a number of meetings and workshops were being held:

Council Past CinCs;

Recruiting strategies;

Best practices for retention;

Secret to gaining visibility;

Ultimate guide to Social Media;

Benefits of recognition;

Winning tactics for fund raising;

What every chapter commander needs to know.

Keep in mind that as I was on the tour, never attended any of these. I offer them for information.

Had the second tour been scheduled for Friday, all of us who opted to take the tour of Little Big Horn and Pompey's Pillar would probably have attended the workshops.

Friday 4 August 2017:

Best practices showcases: Various ROTC, veterans, national security, etc.

Awards luncheon: Long drawn-out affair. We were never recognized.

Afternoon for national candidate presentations then voting. No other names offered, but it was ritual. The rest of the afternoon and evening was devoted to Hann-Buswell stuff.

Saturday 5 August 2017:

A brief memorial service then a business session and general staff meeting.

Region command training game plan preview: Dave Worley was now the Region Cdr so I was along for the ride. CinC receiving line and reception followed by a banquet and speeches. A lot of pomp and circumstance.

More detail of daily schedule of events may be found in the Officer Review, July-Sept issue.

Comment: Many had shared their times with Jack Jones so this was a little emotional from moment to moment. There was a strong concern regarding membership. Nothing was mentioned about opening the membership to any other classifications, but chapters were being closed and regions consolidated due to declining membership. I heard no viable suggestions or options to really address this issue. It seemed that the leadership was resigned to the fact of continued declining membership and simply put on a show for those present. Those attending certainly seemed motivated and strongly supporting the organization and almost resigned to the unspoken inevitable.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

This interesting prayer was given in the Kansas House in Topeka at the opening session in January, 1996. This has been around on the internet and it has been verified by Truth or Fiction to be legitimate and is definitely timeless.

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas House, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says: 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.

- * We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.
- * We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism.
- * We have worshiped other gods and called it multiculturalism.
- * We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.
- * We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
- * We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
- * We have killed our unborn and called it a choice.
- * We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
- * We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.
- * We have abused power and called it politics.
- * We have embezzled public funds and called it essential expenses.
- * We have institutionalized bribery and called it sweets of office.
- * We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.
- * We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
- * We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh GOD, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

The response was immediate. A member walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Southeast Christian Church in Louisville Kentucky, where Rev. Wright was the pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: MAJ DAN DOW, USAR

Some last thoughts of Jack: We are asking each member to reach out to bring in at least one new member within the next six months. In other words, "Each one – Reach one!"

A way to accomplish the mission: Stress the positive aspects of belonging to MOWW, and the Vandenberg Chapter in particular. Ask yourself, "Why do I belong?" Then when you think about all the reasons you enjoy MOWW and what we do, then you have the foundation for "selling" the Order to someone else.

Next, always carry an application with you to present to a prospective member which shows your commitment to being serious about having him (or her) join. I would suggest you go over the Preamble with him and relate it to what we do in our chapter to reflect our commitment to the Preamble and Order.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST LUNCHEON MEETING

This was a rather informal meeting to nominate officers for the coming terms and have some remembering of COL Jack Jones. There were no photos taken.

MOWW PREAMBLE

TO CHERISH THE MEMORIES AND ASSOCIATIONS OF THE WORLD WARS WAGED FOR HUMANITY;

TO INCULCATE AND STIMULATE LOVE OF OUR COUNTRY AND FLAG;

TO PROMOTE AND FURTHER PATRIOTIC EDUCATION IN OUR NATION;

EVER TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, AND TO DEFEND THE HONOR, INTEGRITY, AND SUPREMACY OF OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES;

TO FOSTER FRATERNAL RELATIONS AMONG ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES;

TO PROMOTE THE CULTIVATION OF MILITARY, NAVAL, AND AIR SCIENCE AND THE ADOPTION OF A CONSISTENT AND SUITABLE POLICY OF NATIONAL SECURITY FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;

TO ACQUIRE AND PRESERVE RECORDS OF INDIVIDUAL SERVICES;

TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST IN THE HOLDING OF COMMEMORATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMORIALS OF THE WORLD WARS; AND

TO TRANSMIT ALL THESE IDEALS TO POSTERITY; UNDER GOD AND FOR OUR COUNTRY, WE UNITE TO ESTABLISH... THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS.