

# The Companion



June 2011

## Augusta Chapter Officers for 2010-2011 Elected and Appointed

<b>Commander-</b>	COL Susy Roper
<b>Sr Vice CDR-</b>	LT Rich Herdegen
<b>Jr Vice CDR-</b>	
<b>Adjutant-</b>	CDR Earl Richardson
<b>Treasurer-</b>	COL Steven Amster
<b>Marshall-</b>	COL Don Stephens
<b>Surgeon-</b>	BG Robert Cutting
<b>Historian-Archivist</b>	LTC Larry Russell
<b>Chaplain-</b>	FR Bill Williams
<b>Judge Advocate-</b>	CPT Peter Meno
<b>Public Affairs-</b>	LTC Sam Booher
<b>Publicity-</b>	
<b>Editor Companion-</b>	LCDR Ron Freeman
<b>Finance &amp; Budget-</b>	CDR Earl Richardson
<b>Legislative Liaison-</b>	LTC Sam Booher
<b>National Security-</b>	
<b>Speakers Bureau-</b>	
<b>Homeland Security-</b>	COL Bob Deshler
<b>FEMA-</b>	LT Rich Herdegen
<b>Membership-</b>	LTC Gary Engen
<b>Program-</b>	COL Richard Manion
<b>Asst Program-</b>	COL Harry Pund
<b>Patriotic Education-</b>	LTC Gary Engen
<b>Law and Order-</b>	LT Richard Herdegen
<b>Ceremonies-</b>	COL Don Stephens
<b>ROTC-</b>	COL Don Stephens
<b>Massing of the Colors-</b>	LTC Charles Schuman
<b>Memorial Service-</b>	
<b>Youth Leadership Advisor-</b>	MAJ Dewitt Dent
<b>BSA Liaison-</b>	COL Steve Amster
<b>Chapter Activities-</b>	CDR Earl Richardson
<b>Independence Day-</b>	LTC Dave Titus
<b>YLC</b>	LTC Gary Engen

## Last Message From Chapter Commander LTC Larry Russell

At the recent May meeting the Augusta chapter's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was duly celebrated, with a many of the charter members and past chapter commanders living in the CSRA there. The meeting was well attended, and Col.

Don Stephens was able to get several good pictures to document the event. Anyone not there who wants to get a feel for the early history of the Augusta Chapter should go to pages 17 through 22 of the chapter bylaws. This meeting brings my tenure as chapter commander to a close, with a new team taking over in June. I would like to commend all the past year's staff for your commitment to the accomplishment of your various duties, and hope you will continue to serve the new commander with equal dedication.



Past Chapter Commanders present at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Augusta Chapter, from left to right: Lcdr Ronald Freeman (04-06), LTC Albert Kitchen Jr. (90-91), LTC Boyd Long III (99-00), BG Robert Cutting (88-89), MAJ Ronald Carne (96-97), COL Brian Mulherin (84-85), MAJ Albert Kitchen III (02-03), LTC Lawrence Russell III (09-11), LTC Gary Engen (00-01), MAJ Dewitt Dent (93-94), and LTC Wayman Johnson (94-95).

As a reminder to committee chairmen, the suspense dates for getting in the various reports are: ROTC 15 Jun; Young Members 15 Jul; Information and Publicity 15 Jun; Chapter Activities 10 July; Patriotic Education 10 July and Law and Order 15 Jun. There is only a short time until half of these are due to be in for scoring. More detailed information on award submission is listed later in the newsletter.

## Chapter Officers for 2011-2012 By LTC Gary Engen

Thanks to LTC Larry Russell for his 2 consecutive years as our chapter commander. Larry is commended for his work in coordinating the staff and the many activities accomplished by the Augusta chapter. It is that time of year now though to give others a chance. The nominating committee recently recommended the slate of chapter officers for next year and they were approved by unanimous vote at the chapter monthly meeting in May. The following are the primary chapter officers who will be formally installed at our 12 June meeting:

**Commander-** COL Susy Roper  
**Sr Vice CDR-** LT Rich Herdegen  
**Jr Vice CDR-** (vacant)  
**Adjutant-** CDR Earl Richardson  
**Treasurer-** COL Steven Amster  
**Marshall-** COL Don Stephen



Mrs. Veronica Beasley, widow of Charter Member and Past Chapter Commander (06-09) MAJ Charlie Beasley, begins to serve the cake to COL Brian Mulherin and LTC Wayman Johnson.

## Membership By LTC Gary Engen

Consider who you can invite to the 12 June meeting that is eligible to join and bring them along; we'll help convince them that the Augusta Chapter of MOWW is a place for them! Remember that a spouse, a descendant, or adopted child of an officer (no matter if the officer was a member of MOWW or not) is also eligible to be a "Hereditary" member of MOWW too. Contact Membership Committee Chairman, Gary Engen, if you have any questions on membership. Have you recruited a new member this year yet? With recent losses of some regular (not perpetual) young members (new 2LTs) that have moved away and not renewed their memberships, we were down to 133 living members. Thanks goes to LTC

Boyd Long who recently sponsored 3 new members from our local JROTC cadre and brought our numbers up to 136. Congratulations to our newest members, all recruited by companion Boyd Long.

*LTC Mitchell Sivas, USA (Ret), Senior Army Instructor at Harlem H.S. AJROTC.*

*MAJ Michael S. Daversa, USA (Ret), Senior Army Instructor at Evans H.S. AJROTC.*

*MAJ Rodney D. Tyson, Sr., USA (Ret), Senior Army Instructor at Grovetown H.S. AJROTC*

There is still time to recruit more though. We still have until 30 June 2011 to boost our membership even more for the 2010-2011 reporting period.

One of our younger perpetual members was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Mark Engen, following in the footsteps of his dad Gary Engen, was promoted to LTC at Fort Bragg, NC on 1 June.



TO BRING A GUEST TO OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

## Youth Leadership Conference 2011 By LTC Gary Engen

Seven local high school students are being sponsored to the 4-day Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) on board the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point, Charleston, SC 14-17 June 2011. The students were selected from our top students that participated in our Augusta 2-day YLC this past February. This year these rising juniors or seniors are from Lakeside, Hephzibah, Glenn Hills, Silver Bluff and South Aiken high schools. Our chapter is providing the registration fees (\$200 each) and round-trip transportation for the 7 students. Much thanks to companions Don Stephens (bus driver) and Coke Geddings (chaperon) for their important part in this activity, to those companions who contributed to our Endowment Trust Fund (that pays for this YLC) and to the many adults volunteers that worked at our Augusta YLC and helped advise and select these fine students. We anticipate some of the students will be invited to one or more of our future monthly meetings to describe their experiences aboard the Yorktown.

**OGA and Kay Mastroianni Endowment  
Trust Fund Report  
by David Titus**

A special thank you goes to the following Companions who contributed to the OGA and Kay Mastroianni Endowment Trust Fund this Chapter year. Their generosity will help support the seven students we are sending to Patriots Point in Charleston.

Wayman Johnson  
Don Stephens  
Nancy Nooney  
Gary Engen  
KarenAnn Amster  
Harry Pund  
Ron Carrne  
Sam Booher

**Treasurer's Report  
30 April 2011**

<hr/>	
Non-Profit Checking	
Opening balance 05/01	\$2639.83
Deposits and other credits	+409.00
05/16 Dining receipts and 50/50	409.00
Checks -- cleared	
05/15 1009 (Newsletters, postage)	56.62
05/15 1010 (Dining expense)	400.00
Service charges & other debits	-0.00
Closing checking balance 05/31	\$2592.21
<hr/>	
Closing balance including outstanding checks	\$2592.21
<hr/>	
Cash Balance	
Opening balance 05/01	\$40.00
Changes	+.00
Closing Balance 05/31	\$40.00
<hr/>	
Opening Financial Asset Balance 05/01	\$2679.83
Net Change	-47.62
Closing Financial Asset Balance 05/31	\$2632.21
<hr/>	

**Chapter Annual Award Submissions  
By LTC Gary Engen**

The Augusta Chapter usually is recognized for numerous annual awards each year. At last years National Convention in El Paso, the Augusta chapter won the ROTC Award for their size category; a National Young Members Recruitment plaque ; first runner up for the Young Members Recruitment Award; first runner up for

the Chapter Patriotic Education Program Award, and second runner up for both the Chapter Activity Award and for the Chapter Law and Order Award. Additionally, COL Steve Amster was presented a National Citation Letter for his work in the chapter. These awards are based on the reports made to the national committees from the chapters. The reports are submitted by 15 June each year by the chapter committee chairperson in accordance with guidance from the MOWW Policy Handbook. We anticipate the many activities of the Augusta chapter being recognized with similar awards at this year's convention in Bozeman, Montana.



-456.62

Mark Engen at the promotion ceremony with proud parents Gary and Glenda Engen. Mark recently completed an assignment as S-3 of the 9th PsyOps Bn and was selected for the AF-Pak Hands program where he will study the Pakistan culture and language (Urdu) and be assigned subsequently to the US Embassy in Pakistan.

**MOWW ROTC/JROTC Awards of Merit for 2011  
By COL Don Stephens**

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to those chapter companions who volunteered their time to present awards to so many outstanding young people. The MOWW ROTC Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals of Merit were presented to Augusta State University ROTC cadets during their Spring Formal on 29 April by Past Chapter Commander MAJ Dewitt Dent.

Our chapter provided 33 MOWW JROTC Medals of Merit to cadets at 28 different high school Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps JROTC units in the CSRA. Companions presented all of these medals except 1. Six of these schools are 50-80 miles from Augusta. In addition to the undersigned, the companions listed below made one or more presentations. Thanks guys for a job well done!

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| LTC Gary Engen      | LCDR Ron Freeman   |
| MAJ Coke Geddings   | COL John Geiger    |
| LT Richard Herdegen | LTC Wayman Johnson |
| MAJ Henry Mitchell  | CW3 Bob Przybysz   |
| LTC David Titus     |                    |

**Boy Scout Liaison**  
**By COL Steve Amster**

I shall attend with Troop 119 the upcoming Georgia-Carolina Council summer camp at Knox Scout Camp 12-18 June. Quite a number of Life Scouts from that troop are working on their Eagle Scout service projects. Any companion wishing to assist please contact COL Amster at [amsters@pol.net](mailto:amsters@pol.net) or 706-951-4536.

**Legislative Affairs**  
**By LTC Sam Boohers**

**NDAA Coming to House Floor for Vote**

The House Armed Services Committee voted 60 to 1 last week, following a more than 16-hour marathon markup session, to approve a bill (HR 1540) that provides \$553 billion Department of Defense base budget, an additional \$119 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$18 billion to support atomic energy defense programs at the Department of Energy for the next fiscal year. Under other provisions of HR 1540, troops would see an across-the-board pay increase of 1.6 percent, equal to the amount recommended in the President's budget. Unfortunately, the bill does not, repeat, not end the reduction of payments under the Survivor Benefit Plan by the amount a survivor receives in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Instead, the Committee recommends increasing monthly payments in the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) through 2021. This year's HASC NDAA would increase SSIA and extend its life to Oct. 1, 2021. Under the revised incremental growth plan, SSIA would be raised to \$163 from \$90 in fiscal 2013, to \$200 in 2014, \$215 in 2015, \$282 in 2016 and \$314 for fiscal 2017. These amounts could change in coming years but fall far short of the more than \$1,150 deducted monthly under the current SBP/DIC offset.

**The provisions you and I are closely watching are the increase of TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and the increases in pharmacy co pays.**

We know there will be amendments offered to the bill. We will be monitoring developments closely and working to encourage an amendment to "hold the line" on shifting costs of earned benefits to military retirees and their families.

Please ask your friends to help you keep up the pressure on your congressmen and senators. The final votes are far from being cast, and we must continue to let them know you and I are not for any TRICARE fee increase. Member of House Personnel Committee Describes Dismissed TRICARE Debate

As I have reported earlier, an amendment to prohibit TRICARE Prime fee increases was refused consideration, ruled "out of order," during the full House Armed Services Committee (HASC) markup of the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1540) last week. The unconsidered amendment sought to re-establish the legislative language that banned the Pentagon from raising TRICARE Prime rates. The amendment would have

restored the the firing line for budget reduction. We are not for any TRICARE fee increase as a first effort to reduce runaway government spending. There are many lower priorities that need to be taken well before earned benefits are reduced. Please continue to let your elected officials know how you feel about TRICARE and the proposed increases. Send a message to your Representatives and Senators. original language as already approved by members of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. In a newsletter to Florida constituents, Rep. Allen West (R-FL) provides additional description of the House Armed Services Committee action on TRICARE. Rep. West writes, "... after the Subcommittee on Military Personnel voted in favor of a one year moratorium on increasing TRICARE fees, Chairman Buck McKeon altered language in the full committee mark-up that increases TRICARE fees in 2012, and then allows Department of Defense to make annual increases in TRICARE not greater than the percentage of COLA offered to military personnel each year."

"While the TRICARE increase for 2012 equals just \$2.50/month and \$5/month for individuals and families respectively, by linking it to COLA from 2013 on," the Florida Republican continued, "it gives the DOD the ability to essentially raise fees every year from now on, except on those off years when the COLA is not adjusted." "This seems to be a major break in the promise of TRICARE to those who joined the military," the Congressman wrote.

And Rep. West concludes, "I do not support this full HASC initiative and recommendation on TRICARE." I ask our readers to please keep up the pressure on your congressmen and senators. And ask your friends to help, too. The Senate is scheduled to act in June. The final decision is far from certain.

Together, we must continue to let them know that military retirees should not be first on We all know this old political true-ism. If the camel once gets his nose in the tent, his body will soon follow.

**TRICARE Adds Cancer Tests**

TRICARE has added coverage for the enhanced cervical cancer-screening test called HPV DNA. The test is covered as a cervical cancer screening under TRICARE's clinical preventive services when performed in conjunction with a Pap smear for women aged 30 and older. Pre authorization for HPV testing is not required, and beneficiaries have no co payments or cost-shares for routine cervical cancer screening under TRICARE. TRICARE also covers the CDC recommended vaccine series to prevent HPV infection in girls as well as screening for breast, colorectal and prostate cancer without cost shares or co pays. For more information, visit the Tri care web site.

**Gates Suggests Pay Cuts**

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has long avoided using reductions in military pay and active duty benefits to reduce costs. In the past Sec. Gates has sought to squeeze some excess costs from TRICARE, by asking to increase annual premiums and fees for military retirees and to tax their employers if retirees opt out of employer provided

health care. Although unwilling to say where any compensation cuts may occur, recently Secretary Gates has put the possibility of cuts in military pay and benefits on the table. We all need to watch for any proposal Secretary Gates may offer before he retires at the end of the month. We will also watch what Secretary of Defense nominee Leon Panetta will propose in the future. Panetta's nomination is expected to come before the Senate next week

**Chaplain's Corner**  
**By Chaplain Bill Williams**

Last month we celebrated Memorial Day weekend. It has been said that it has lost its purpose as many Americans use it as a marker of beginning the summer vacation. Across this great nation there will be events to honor our brave men and women who are serving and have served in our Armed Forces. As members of the MOWW we have a purpose to remind people of the commitment by which we still serve as centennials who are vigilant to the call. Teaching other about honor is a part of the fabric of our life. We are called to help other to understand what this time of the year means for us. This letter goes out after the fact yet it doesn't discharge us of duty to be centennials. I'm reminded of the military personnel who stand watch at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. They do not taking lightly their duty it is conducted with the utmost reverence, like them our watch is one that never ends.

**Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday to all companions born during the Months of June, July and August:

CPT Charles W. Thorngate	01 JUN
LCDR Ron F. Freeman	01 JUN
COL James G. Keagle	07 JUN
LTC H. Boyd Long III	08 JUN
LT Michael Morgan	10 JUN
LGEN Peter A. Kind	11 JUN
LTC David R. Titus	14 JUN
CW3 Bogumil(Bob)Przybysz	20 JUN
LT COL Robert A. Bracy	23 JUN
MRS. Karenann Amster	24 JUN
MRS. Rosa Johnson	25 JUN
LTC Wayman J. Johnson	26 JUN
LTC John N. Mastroianni	27 JUN

LTC Paul J. Cutting	02 JUL
MISS Paula Johnson	05 JUL
CAPT Jefferson F.Hardin	05 JUL
MRS.. Florine M. Fuller	07 JUL
MAJ John Clements	11 JUL
1LT Steve Szablewski	11 JUL
COL Michael E. Roper	17 JUL
MR.. Robert C. Medlock	18 JUL
CDR Earl Richardson	28 JUL
MISS Amanda Johnson	31 JUL
MRS..Samuel B.(Evelyn)Wilson	02 AUG

MR. Baron Titus	03 AUG
LTC Judson S. Hickey	03 AUG
CAPT Theodore O. Atwood, Jr.	03 AUG
COL Virgil(Tommy)S.Adkins,Jr	07 AUG
MR.. Scott D. Mastroianni	17 AUG
CPT Stephen H. Boulay	18 AUG
MRS..Robt.E.(Ruth)Galloway	20 AUG
MR.. John R. Barney	21 AUG
1LT Lola Mae Dickenson-Rayder	23 AUG

**Fractured Sayings**

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it." "But I paid a million dinars for it," the king protested. "Don't you know who I am? I AM THE KING." Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire.....so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor, Doctor!! I'm Shrinking!" The doctor casually replied, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

Back in the 1800s the Tate's Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products, and since they already made the cases for watches, they used them to produce compasses. The new compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression: "He who has a Tate's is lost."

**MEETING SCHEDULE 2010-2011**

<u>Day, Date Time</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Sun, 12 Jun, 1330, Lunch 1230-1330	Installation of Officers Staff Mtg Tues, 7 Jun

**Link to the MOWW Augusta Chapter Website:**  
<http://www.augustamoww.com>

**Link To the MOWW National Website:**  
<http://militaryorder.net/>

**To contact the editor of the Companion:**  
[CDRRHW@aol.com](mailto:CDRRHW@aol.com)

Please put MOWW in the subject line or your e-mail will go to spam. Let us know if you want to receive the newsletter electronically.