

Contra Costa County Chapter  
**The BULLETIN**

Volume 3 -2012

“One Powerful Voice”

March 30, 2012

**Next Meeting: April 18, 2012 (Wednesday)**

**Meeting: 1700 to 1900 Hrs**

**Location: Lafayette Veteran’s Hall**

**Speaker: Lieutenant Commander (P), DesaRae Janszen** is the Waterways Management Division Chief for Coast Guard Sector San Francisco. Her duties include managing 3 branches: Vessel Traffic Service San Francisco, Aids to Navigation Team San Francisco, and the Waterways Safety Branch. See Registration form for attendance.



**Our March Speaker was Bill Green:**

Bill Green is the Co-Director of Mount Diablo Vietnam Veterans' Speakers' Bureau. He was drafted into the US Army and served as an NCO in the 198th Light Infantry Brigade 1967-69. He received 2 Purple Hearts and 2 Bronze Stars. After he returned to the US, he experienced PTSD symptoms, which still continue today. He has devoted considerable time to assisting others who face these issues, and currently serves as a Mentor for returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan at the Concord Vets Center. Bill presented some of the psychological background and findings concerning PTSD, often using himself as an example. He answered a variety of questions from MOAA members. He has also spoken about PTSD to over 33,000 area students. Thank you Bill for your presentation to MOAA-CCC and work with Veterans.

**MOAA BOARD MEMBERS – January 2012 to December 2013**

<i>President</i>	BG (R) G. Richard Gruner, CAL ARNG	925-291-2538
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Programs</i>	COL (R) Patricia Z. Wernet, USAR	925-631-1523
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership</i>	MG (R) Dan Helix, USA	925-297-0487
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Liaison</i>	CWO Renier Hernandez, USCGR	
<i>Chaplain</i>	Harold H. Eslinger, USN	925-939-1664
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	LCDR (R) John Beal, USN	925-284-7411
<i>Directors At Large</i>	CAPT (R) John Haffner, USN	925-376-9064
	CAPT (R) Stan Ellexson, USN	510-223-4420
	CDR (R) Calvin Burkhardt, USN	925-378-2753

**Veteran Information –**

1. Do you have a CALVET license plate on your vehicle? If not, and you want to obtain one go to [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) or call: **1-800-952-5626**. Show your service with pride and buy a Plate! Over 122 military and organizational logos are available for your Veterans Plate.
2. CPT Haffner reported on the Lafayette War Veterans’ progress with managing the **Lafayette Veteran’s Memorial Building**. Finances continue to improve. Priorities for maintenance were discussed, along with a report of the dinner (13 Mar) honoring COL Alan Cruz for his service to the LWV.

**Status of Chapter and Survey:**

The Board has discussed several options to continuing on as a chapter. This is a critical time because of several factors:

1. The Board has had at least a 50% vacancy for over 4 years.
2. Several Board members have served for over 4 years.
3. Some present Board members have announced they will not serve next year. Key officers of President, Vice President and Treasurer will not serve as these officers next year.
4. There is a volunteer for Treasurer, but the meeting day would need to change for him to attend Board meetings. MG Dan Helix is chairing a committee to identify 2013-14 officers and board members.
5. The attendance of the luncheon meetings have decreased to fewer than 20 members. Last month 14 members attended. The present caterer cannot continue to do the luncheons under these conditions. The chapter loses money every month by paying for members who sign up for the luncheon but do not attend or pay.
6. Paid membership is around 41 members and 14 paid auxiliaries. This is less than 50 % of the members in the chapter 4 years ago.
7. The Board has tried several measures to streamline the chapter administration by: having 9 meetings, sending the majority of newsletters by email, introducing some early evening meetings, Board members doing "double duty" for chapter tasks, etc.

**Choices for Chapter Format:**

1. Continue the chapter if:
  - a. members volunteer as Board Members – a minimum of 9 are needed
  - b. a member volunteers to write and disperse the newsletter
  - c. an active membership committee is formed and staffed to increase membership.
  - d. Meeting day may need to be changed for a treasurer.
  - e. Caterer would change to a format to accommodate fewer than 20 attendees
  
2. Become a sub-chapter of an active MOAA chapter:
  - a. members volunteer as a Directors Committee – a minimum number of 5 are needed
  - b. a member sends news items to the Chapter
  - c. chapter meetings could be quarterly
  - d. the Director would attend at least one of the Chapter Board meetings.
  - e. an annual meeting would be combined with the Chapter.
  - f. the Chapter could assist with some sub-chapter tasks.
  
3. Close the chapter with monies donated to the MOAA scholarship fund or otherwise as the members direct.

**SURVEY (Please return comments by email to Richard Gruner or mail to John Beal):**

1. General Comments

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2. Choice of Chapter Format and Comments:

- a. Continue \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Subchapter \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Close \_\_\_\_\_

3. Will you serve in a leadership position? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No **If yes, contact BG Gruner or MG Helix.**

Respectfully,  
Patricia Zindler Wernet, COL (R), USAR, AN  
Publisher, The Bulletin

Contra Costa Chapter, MOAA  
Box 2305, Walnut Creek, CA 94595-0305