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August
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"Following the Spirit of Truman's Leadership in ROA"

2023

President's Message

By COL Michael S. Clarke, USA (Ret)

Most importantly, this newsletter must pay tribute to **CAPT Richard L. Kallemeier** for his years as Secretary of the Missouri ROA. CAPT Kallemeier has received many national and state honors for his outstanding ROA publications. He and his family have moved to Des



COL Clarke

Moines, Iowa, however he will retain his membership in MOROA. **LCDR Dina Pinkston** will assume the Secretary position. Dina is recently retired from the Navy, working as a civilian for the US Defense Department.

Also of great importance, we must recognize Lt Col Donald Stockton, Col Robert Shankel, and CW4 John Travers. They are responsible for planning and the success of this year's annual state meeting, held at the renovated Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri. The conference marked the first joint meeting of the Kansas and Missouri Departments.



Conventioneers honor President Truman at wreath presentation

ROA nationally is celebrating its centennial. President Truman's service in the Reserves and the development of ROA nationally were highlighted in this year's state conference. Our 2024 state meeting will again be in April. More specific information will be available soon.

One of the special benefits of ROA is membership in the CIOR and CIOMR. CIOR is a French abbreviation standing for Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers. The M is for medical. Both are based in Brussels, Belgium and represent the Reserve Forces of Europe plus the USA and Canada. The CIOR rotates sponsorship of the annual meeting from the member countries. The conference mixes well done didactic sessions with enjoyable social functions. The 2023 CIOR was held in Helsinki, Finland. The forthcoming 2024 CIOR will be held in Estonia, and MOROA intends to send another larger delegation to Tallinn, Estonia.



CIOR opening ceremony in Helsinki

The ROA national headquarters on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, continues to lobby on multiple fronts for the interests of Reserve Forces. Several examples follow:

- Increased attention to recruiting and retention is needed.
- Tax relief on wages and retirement pay.
- Reenactment of the federal long-term insurance program.
- Survival benefits programs.

Further information on lobbying goals can be obtained from ROA national headquarters.

The 2023 national convention will take place at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, 28 September-1 October. In addition to a distinguished military faculty, tourist activities to enjoy during the convention include river cruises, outstanding Creole cooking, famous Blues music, and tours of the USS Kidd and Veterans Museum.

Baton Rouge is called the Red Stick. Story has it that long ago, this area in Louisiana along the mighty Mississippi River was occupied by two indigenous tribes, the Houma Indian Tribe and the Bayougoula Indian Tribe. To settle a border conflict between them, the tribes used a cypress pole to mark the boundary dividing their hunting grounds. Explorers saw the cypress pole and dubbed the area "le baton rouge".

Breaking News, The Excom has announced the 2024 MOROA Convention will be at the Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach, Missouri, 26-28 April 2024.

August 2023

MOROA Transmitter

Page 2

2023 DEPARTMENTS OF MISSOURI AND KANSAS **ANNUAL CONVENTION**

2023 CONVENTION REPORT

By CDR Ellen Duvall and CAPT Dick Kallemeier

At the opening session of the 2023 Missouri and Kansas Convention Matt Schwartzman, ROA Legislative Director via internet, reviewed several initiatives from ROA, including no cost health care for reservists and guard as health and dental deficiencies impact National Security and deployability. There is concern



highlighted

achievements.

of

the

mands debate, but he is

proud

that the toxic exposure fund may Matt Schwartzman drain benefits elsewhere; tax credits

to employers with personnel critically understaffed in the service; and USERRA policies are antiquated.

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, 5th Congressional



Lt Col Wayne Wroblewski, ROA He said Democracy de-National President-Elect, **Congressman Cleaver and CW4** John Travers (constituent)

screaming and name calling occurring between his colleagues as they attack each other. He stated what happens in the United States affects the world. He closed with, "Democracies have a habit of committing suicide. We have to be careful."

not

CAPT Curtis Renard, USN (Ret), Department of

Kansas President, presented several awards to Kansas members. The awards were prepared by MG Mike who recently Silva passed away. COL Carol Couch and LTC Mariam Carlson were in attendance and accepted their Minute



LTC Carlson, COL Couch and **CAPT Renard**

Man Brigade of Volunteers Awards.

Col Michael Leonas, USAFR, LTC Matt Eddings, USAR, and LCDR Dina Pinkston, USN (Ret) were this year's senior officer panel members. Each Identifying concerns currently impacting readiness, the primary impediment to all of them is inconsistent funding. Other concerns highlighted were cross assigning of Naval officers; 4-day weekend drills with much work done on their own time; retirements of senior leadership and low recruitment, 3-6 months transition from active to reserve pay and vice versa. Bonuses are woefully inadequate to match free college tuition, etc offered by the civilian sector that lures mechanics and technicians out of the Reserve. Long-term service benefits are non-existent. The Army Reserve in SW MO on any given day is 50-percent-manned. 43 percent of our Armed Forces are Reserve and Guard.



Brad Carlson, ROA Resource Development Director: A non-profit like ROA through the STARS Foundation, brings together military, civilians, and family for readiness. The military is the largest, highly educated skilled labor force in the United States. As we move into our second century the goal is for organizations and individuals to donate \$1million to the foundation; we already have \$800,000.



Dr. Kurt Graham, Director of the Truman Presidential



Library and Museum: In the Great War, Truman learned he could lead. His innate integrity is what drew respect for him. When asked as President how to treat a vanquished enemy, he responded, "You bring them back into the community of nations." Today Germany and Japan are two of our strongest partners. Pictured is Dr. Graham accepting a copy

of the ROA Charter for the library, signed by President Truman in June 1950 from Lt Col Don Stockton.

Major Kavan Stull, USA (Ret) brings to life the charm,

wit and sincerity of Harry S. Truman, America's 33rd president. But long before the Lamar, Missouri, resident took up residence in the White House, he was a captain in World War I, fighting with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Stull, as Truman, spoke of his enlistment in the war as well as the sights and sounds he witnessed while "over there".



MAJ Stull "aka" **Captain Harry Truman**

The afternoon ended with a wreath presentation at the Truman burial site. The combined ROA centennial, and 75th anniversary of Truman signing the ROA charter were

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honored in a formal ceremony by the ROA members. RADM Stanton Thompson, USN (Ret) and MAJ Stull in their WWI uniforms were the honor guard.

Following the Saturday evening dinner Col Michael Leonas, Vice Commander of the 442 FW, Whiteman AFB spoke to the wing's mission and the on-going role of the A-10 in special operations. Then Maj Brian Rutherford, USAF (Ret) took the stage and presented the MOROA 2022 Leadership of the Year Awards.





Truman Honors

Col Michael Leonas

Leader of the Year Award Recipients

Technical Sergeant Curtis Mitchell developed the Force Health Protection plan and standards currently in use by the 442d Maintenance Group, ensuring the resiliency – physical and mental – of our workforce as we navigated the post-pandemic surge in operations tempo. This

process expertly satisfies two sets of higher-headquarters requirements and is Air Force Reserve Command's largest Force Health Plan while maintaining a demanding 3,000-plus sorties and over 5,600 flying hours. All while modernizing the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet at Whiteman.

Led aircraft maintenance modernization efforts by coordinating with

nine separate agencies at seven separate sites and resulting in \$11 million in hangar, inspection and other infrastructure enhancements. Discovered a critical information gap in



the voungest of their 3 children

aircraft maintenance and technical data, immediately assembling a task force of stakeholders and one-timeinspection of all unit aircraft - potentially averting a serious or even fatal mishap from occurring. Assuming a lead role in ensuring critical wing training was accomplished, resulting in 1128-unit members receiving timely and accurate training in topics as varied as chemical warfare, selfaid and buddy care and other core warfighting skills.

Recognized as the subject matter expert in the aircraft maintenance, he performed 42 quality inspections and ensured strict adherence to aircraft technical data during all maintenance operations – validating over 1200 tasks in the process.

Technical Sergeant Austin Sims provided exemplary care of members and their families as the Transition Assistance Program coordinator for the 442nd and reporting units. Embracing this special duty role, he advised and

educated wing leadership on readiness, resiliency, and deployment for the Wing and our active-duty associates in the 358th Fighter Squadron at Whiteman, as well as for our geographically separated unit, the 476th Fighter Group at Moody Air Force Base. His selfless commitment to service above and beyond his assigned duties often included providing information and referral services to wing families, and he dedicated himself to researching all available resources to best equip our members and their families in



MOROA Transmitter

times of crisis. His talents have mitigated work stress and forged resiliency amongst all units. His leadership, integrity, persistence, and dedication to excellence is second to none. As an Airman, TSgt Sims has distinguished himself by skillfully overseeing numerous critical Wing and Squadron programs to include Tactical Combat Casualty

TSgt Sims and his family

Care; Self Aid & Buddy Care; outpatient medical records; Patient Record Tracking; Military Health System Genesis and the Health Artifact and Image Management Solution. In the process, he deftly managed and mentored over 15Airmen, helping to build their skills and develop our enlisted leaders of tomorrow. He has demonstrated keen and responsive abilities to adapt and overcome; as such he is the 'go to' NCO when our Military & Family Readiness office needs to get things done. For instance, when Health Systems Genesis was introduced to our Wing, he was able to rapidly train and prepare his team for the exclusive use of Genesis for COVID-19 initial and on-going booster vaccine lines. The processes directly improved the efficiency of workflow and ultimately, readiness operations and critical member retention for the entire Wing.

Captain Justin Sievers, USAFR brought great pride to the 442d Fighter Wing and recognition of our collective commitment to excellence in aircraft maintenance when he received the Air Force Reserve Command's Leo

Marquez Company Grade Officer of the Year Award for 2022.

Directing over 360 aircraft maintenance technicians in thirteen separate specialty fields, he ensured the combat-readiness of 27 A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft flving over 2,800 successful sorties under his watch. He led A-10C efforts during the first-ever Exercise Agile



Col William McLeod accepting the award from Col Leonas for Capt Sievers due to his activation.

Tiger, delivering nearly 70 sorties during this active duty, guard and reserve effort between 15 separate units, designed to improve warfighter lethality through high fidelity execution, mission and debrief. Leading by example for Airmen in his charge, he spearheaded efforts that resulted

Page 3

August 2023

MOROA Transmitter

Page 4

(Continued from page 3) **Convention Report**

in the 442d Maintenance Group winning the Air Force Reserve Command's prestigious Maintenance Effectiveness Award, the Air Force Association's Citation of Honor and over 40 members officially and directly recognized by citation and awards for their contributions during exercises and inspections due to his efforts.

His talents and leadership further bolstered the unit's Combat Search and Rescue capabilities during Warfighting Integration deployment to Nellis AFB. He is an outstanding company grade officer with a concrete grasp of resource management, resiliency and what it means to take care of his people.

Marine Science Technician Valerie Schwing, USCGR, from the USCG Sector Upper Mississippi River was selected as a Missouri ROA Leader of the Year for 2020. AND...as we all know, the 2020 Convention was cancelled due to Covid. In addition, reserve commands shut down due to the pandemic as well. Numerous attempts to present MST Schwing with her award fell to the continuance of Covid. We thought we had the problem solved for the 2022 convention when, you guessed it, Covid struck again. This time it was within her family and they had to cancel their attendance. While all of these obstacles continued to interfere with a formal presentation, Valerie marched onward and MST1 Schwing became Ma-

rine Science Technician Chief Petty Officer Valerie Schwing, USCGR.

In case you're wondering, MST's are specialists who enforce laws related to safety, security, and environmental protection. They board vessels, inspect commercial waterfront facilities, and respond to disasters that affect the environment or operation of a port. They search containers or oversee handling of hazardous cargo to prevent disruptions to critical maritime commerce infrastructure and are typically assigned



Immediate Past President Fred Lydic with award recipient Marine Science Technician Chief Petty Officer Valerie Schwing, USCGR EXCOM Member BM3 Tommy Price, USCGR watches in the background.

to shore-side sectors and specialized units.

We are happy to announce that we finally persevered. MOROA Immediate Past President, **CAPT Fred Lydic** was able to make the presentation to MSTC Schwing at an all-hands gathering of the Upper Sector Coast Guard reservists at their headquarters in St. Louis on 1 April, 2023...better late than never!

Update your ROA Record

The ROA website <u>www.roa.org</u> has been modified to allow members to enter their biography information and make changes to address, phone, email, rank, etc., use "Manage Profile" tab. Keeping your information current helps us with mailing the *Transmitter* and in the case of a

quick alert by email. If you are not receiving the *ROA SmartBrief* use the site to subscribe. The *SmartBrief* email is published several days a week with the latest military and legislative news from Washington.



The MOROA Legislative Committee and Excom submitted 3 resolutions to ROA national for consideration by the National Resolutions

Committee for presentation the National Convention in Baton Rouge this September. 23-03 below was most important to the service section leaders.

Recruiting and retention challenges for the US military and especially the Reserve Components continues to be a problem affecting unit manning and combat readiness.

Missouri Resolution 23-03:

WHEREAS, Many Reserve Component units are currently failing to meet annual recruiting goals potentially affecting combat readiness; and

WHEREAS, Many current RC recruiting financial incentives have not kept pace with inflation and in some cases are inferior to incentives available for Active Duty recruits;

WHEREAS, Current sign-up bonuses for Federal Reserve Component recruits may no longer keep pace with current inflation and are not competitive with current National Guard incentives; and

WHEREAS, Tuition Assistance for Federal RC enlisted personnel is maximized well below the cost per semester hour at most educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Federal RC dedicated recruiters are minimal throughout the U.S. and there are insufficient dedicated budgeted funds provided for recruiting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ROA urge the U.S. Congress and the services to adopt new policies and financial incentives for the Federal RC components that are comparable to all incentives available to all other military components. Further that all such incentives will continue to increase based on inflationary trends and are sufficient to compete with the civilian employer's recruiting incentives.

The elected Missouri members of Congress include:

Senate/House Members	Telephone
Senator Josh Hawley	202-224-6154
Senator Eric Schmitt	202-224-5721
Congresswoman Cori Bush	202-225-2406
Congresswoman Ann Wagner	202-225-1621
Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer	202-225-2956
Congressman Mark Alford	202-225-2876
Congressman Emanuel Cleaver	202-225-4535
Congressman Sam Graves	202-225-7041
Congressman Eric Burlison	202-225-6536
Congressman Jason Smith	202-225-4404

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MOROA Transmitter

National Councilman's Report

By COL Bob Dietrich, USA (Ret)

By the time you receive this edition of the *Transmitter*, the National Convention should be just about to convene. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this year because I am on call for wildfire support during that period; and as we know just as a Reservist on alert, I must be packed and ready to go at a moment's notice.

That being said, I want all of you to know that I have reached out to National to ensure they know of my new position, and my contact information so I can stay in the loop as your National Councilman. There have been no National Council meetings since our state convention; so, I have nothing to report. I do anticipate that there will be a meeting scheduled prior to and at the National Convention. I will update all of these meetings in the next Transmitter.

Naval Services Affairs

By LCDR Dina Pinkston, USN (Ret)

In 2023, the Navy Reserve celebrates it's 108th year of standing the watch. History was made on April 28, 2023, when reserve Master Chief Gunner's Mate Jessica Harrison became the first woman to achieve the rank in the Gunner's Mate rating. A long time in the making, Gunner's Mate was one of the original of a limited job titles offered in our Navy of 1775.

RADM Ted LeCalir, Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Force Fleet, stated the following during a progress update earlier this year on the "Design the Force" line of effort of the Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions (NRFI). NRFI's other three Lines of Effort include Train, Mobilize and Develop the Force. NRFI is VADM Mustin's action plan for the Navy Reserve fully attaining and maintaining peerless warfighting readiness.

"Shipmates, the Design the Force line of effort has been laser-focused on identifying and delivering Navy warfighting capabilities that are best suited for the reserve component. We have analyzed every reserve billet and unit for its fit with our imperative to provide strategic depth. We divested reserve capacity that adds little or no warfighting contribution and invested in capabilities and capacity that provide Navy and joint force warfighting readiness. We are growing our Reserve Force in capabilities like maritime operations centers, search & rescue swimmers, afloat maintenance and repair, maritime air operations, and naval special warfare to name just a few.

In Japan, Sailors assigned to the "Conquistadors" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 57 achieved a major logistics milestone, completing the first-ever deployed C-40A Clipper reconfiguration while on a forwarddeployed detachment at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, Japan with assistance from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force on May 17.

We added Vertical Launching System (VLS) re-load teams and expeditionary logistics capabilities, invested in manpower for the KC-130 fleet, and added augment unit manpower for CMV-22, a new platform in the Navy Reserve Force. These design decisions not only make the

Navy Reserve a more lethal, resilient, and survivable force, they also provide challenging and rewarding opportunities for SELRES Sailors to serve in meaningful roles that conty."

Other Navy news, the Department of Veteran's Affairs Burn Pit Registry



Sailors aboard the USS Spruance tribute directly to (DDG 111) guide training ordnance our nation's securi- into the ship's forward vertical launch system (VLS) cells during a proof-ofconcept evolution in San Diego. MV Ocean Valor conducted its first at-sea vertical launch system reload with Spruance, demonstrating the ability to has been reaching re-arm surface vessels who employ out to service mem- VLS. (U.S. Navy photo by MCS 3rd bers enrolled in the Class Taylor Crenshaw)

and offering free "Burn Pit Registry Examinations". I received my email at the end of July. This is not a disability examination. If you are in need of a disability exam for potential compensation and pension, please apply through the VBA (Veterans Benefits division of the VA). Please check into the disability information and application at https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/

Big events for the Navy Reserve this year, FY23 Enlisted bonuses saw a change, with Navy Accession Training (NAT) and Prior Service (PS) Sailors bonuses have been increased to \$20,000 for 3 years of SELRES service for all rates in the Navy Reserve. This policy applies to all NAT and PS Sailors affiliated with the drilling Selected Reserve on or after March 24, 2023.

At Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the "Jaguars" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM-60) were named as the Naval Air Force Reserve Squadron of the Year and presented the Captain David McCampbell Trophy by Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve RADM Brad "Gunny" Dunham at an awards ceremony in the squadron's hangar on Apr. 27.

Service Section Affairs

Reprinted CNN news report submitted by CPT Roger Pleus, USA (Ret)

Three US military services without Senate-confirmed chiefs for first time in history...Another US military service chief has relinquished command without a Senate-confirmed replacement in place, marking the first time in the Defense Department's history that three services are operating without a confirmed senior military officer in place. Chief of Naval Operations ADM Mike Gilday relinquished command on Monday. His nominated replacement, ADM Lisa Franchetti, is one of more than 300 military officers whose promotions are being stalled by Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville, in protest of Pentagon reproductive health policies. Franchetti will serve as the acting Chief of Naval Operations in the absence of her Senate confir-

Page 5

(Continued from page 5)

mation. Gilday's relinquishment follows the retirement and relinquishment of command by former Army Chief of Staff **GEN James McConville** on August 4, and former Marine Corps Commandant **Gen David Berger** last month.

"Because of this hold, for the first time in the history of the DoD, three of our military services are operating without Senate-confirmed leaders," Defense Secretary **Lloyd Austin** said Monday at Gilday's relinquishment ceremony. "This is unprecedented. It is unnecessary. And it is unsafe. "Navy Secretary **Carlos Del Toro** echoed Austin's sentiment, saying it is "well past time" for the Senate to address the outstanding nominations. "Not doing so will continue to degrade our readiness and will even put the very lives – yes, the very lives of our servicemen and women, your young men and women – at risk by not allowing our most experienced warfighters to lead," Del Toro said.

All the replacements can serve as "acting" chiefs but can do nothing that would presume confirmation. As a result, they can't move into the main residences or offices, or issue formal planning guidance.

Air Force Affairs

By Maj Brian Rutherford, USAF (Ret)

Patriot Fury

NOTE: This recap included information from independent interviews, but leans heavily on material posted by 442d Fighter Wing Public Affairs, and specifically MSgt Bob Jennings' article, "First all-Reserve AEW stands up for Patriot Fury in Peru" published on August 5, 2023

Airmen from the 442d Fighter Wing recently returned from Peru in the first-ever entirely Air Force Reserve air expeditionary wing (AEW). Operating from three separate locations and working closely with host-nation personnel, the 64th AEW set up shop and launched Patriot Fury – a sub-exercise within the larger joint-force, international exercise Resolute Sentinel '23. Settling in primarily at Chiclayo Air Base in Peru, the 64th operated for over a month with a variety of US aircraft including C-17s, C-130s and A-10s. In addition to facilities at Chiclayo, specialized exercises and support operations were completed at locations in Lima and El Pato Air Base. The A-10s did what A-10s do – close air support and combat search and rescue – but this time, the scenery and other aircraft involved were definitely not ordinary. Peruvian pilots involved in the exercises were flying Russian SU-25 and South Korean KT-1 attack aircraft.



64th AEW Chiclayo Air Base, Peru

Patriot Fury focused on Agile Combat Employment (ACE) and the new Air Force Generation model (AFFORGEN). This model focuses on gathering functions that support decision-making directly under the wing commander to improve cross-functional communication and better integrate with joint partners.

This exercise was truly designed to test our ability to operate under austere conditions. On several occasions, a C-130 landed, carrying equipment and personnel at El Pato Air Force Base where A-10s were stopped awaiting forward-area refueling point (FARP) and integrated combat turn (ICT) operations. Unlike typical refueling operations, the Warthogs – engines running – each pulled fuel directly from the C-130, immediately taxied to a parking spot for a fresh load of munitions and were ready to return to the fight in less than 30 minutes.

Patriot Fury was considered highly successful, as Airmen and others involved were challenged and surpassed expectations. As mentioned, this was the first all-reserve AEW, and was led by **Col Mike Leonas** from the 442d Fighter Wing. **Maj Charles "Halo" Phelps** flew the firstever A-10 sortie out of South America. Exercises culminated in a friendly game of soccer, or, as the Peruvian Grupo Aereo No. 6 would say, "futbol." How did that go? Well...let's just say it was a friendly game. And that, as it turns out...futbol is a big deal in Peru!

In Other News...

Chapter 442 partnered with the CMSgt's group to host a social event/membership drive at the Whiteman AFB Mission's End club after the duty day during the April Unit Training Assembly. With over 200 members in attendance, the event is considered a great success! Attendees expressed their appreciation for the chance to meet other wing members in a relaxed environment – regardless of unit, rank or AFSC. We'll keep our eyes on how many new members we garnered...and we can't wait to do it again! Speaking of membership, Family Day is on Sunday of the October UTA. ROA leadership will be manning a table to spread the word and get the importance of membership out to as many people as possible.

HAWGCAST

Brig Gen Steve "Nasty" Nester recently began hosting a "typically monthly" podcast, which is informative and



entertaining! Each episode has been great, and it's a great way to keep in touch – and find out what's going on with the 442d Fighter Wing and the Air Force Reserve "in General." (Sorry, had to.) Episode 5

was recently released...and it's a good one! From Facebook: We give this episode five stars! And not only because Brig Gen Steve "Nasty" Nester is joined by two retired major generals. In this episode, Brig Gen Nester talks about some of the great things we did in Peru last month, and interviews three legendary former leaders from the 442d Fighter Wing.

Listen here, or on your favorite podcast-listening platform! https://www.dvidshub.net/.../hawgcast-ep05-seeing-stars #HawgCast #KCHawgs #442FW #Podcast #AFRC 10th Air Force Air Force Reserve

www.MissouriROA.org		org MOROA Transmitter		Page 7
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"MOROA Transmitter" Recipient of ROA's Benjamin Franklin Journalism Award and Sword & Pen Award



MOROA Transmitter

Page 8

Calendar of Events

UPORFA Congress, Buenos Aires, 21-23 Sep

National Convention, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 28 Sep-1 Oct

CIOMR In-Between Meeting (IBM) Oslo, Norway 3-5 Nov

CIOMR In-Between Meeting Stockholm, 9-11 Nov

Missouri Department Convention, Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach, MO 26-28 Apr 2024

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