Reserve Organization of America - Department of Missouri

December

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

2022

President's Message

By COL Michael S. Clarke, USA (Ret)

This centennial year of Missouri ROA has been a banner year marred by the tragic death of our outstanding president Col Rick Nelson in March of 2022.

Six-star General John J. Pershing founded ROA in 1922. Pershing was



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born in Laclede, Missouri and his boyhood home is a fine museum. In September 2022, leaders of MOROA formally presented to the museum staff a proclamation prepared by our past national president Lt Col Don Stockton. (See page 5)

In addition to his proclamation to General Pershing, Don Stockton, has spearheaded fundraising activities for ROA. The Second Century Campaign has stabilized ROA operating revenues for our second century.

In September of 2022, the centennial annual meeting of ROA was held in Washington, DC, and was a tremendous



MOROA delegates front row, LTC Dietrich, Connie Stockton, CDR Duvall, Krystyna Clarke, back row, CAPT Nolan, Lt Col Stockton, LT Richard Nelson IV, USN, Col Shankel, COL Clarke

ther. The MOROA 2023 Convention Committee is working to secure a date and location for next year's convention. April 21-23 is the preferred date but it could be as late as 19-21 May. Using some of the Truman Library facilities would be ideal. More specifics of this annual meeting will be confirmed soon.

The Missouri Department of ROA has provided national presidents multiple years during its 100 years. Three Missouri national past presidents were present for the 2022 annual meeting: COL Judy Davenport, Lt Col Don Stockton, and CAPT Mike Nolan. The election of the national president-elect went to Lt Col Layne Wroblewski who is a past MOROA president.

Finally, on a less positive note, membership continues to be challenging. Our average age of members continues to creep up along with the percentage of retirees. If you have influence with younger military officers, direct them our way. There are several excellent programs available for membership. For example, five years of free membership

if under the age of 35 or half-priced ROA life membership.

Congratulations and thanks are extended to CAPT Mike Nolan for his many years of service and leadership in MOROA and numerous national ROA leadership positions including president. For many years Mike has led the department's legislative committee. His leadership has maintained communications with all the



CAPT Nolan

Missouri U.S. congressional members by informing them of the ROA legislative agenda and crucial bills that impact the reservist performance and national security. CAPT Nolan is stepping down from this most important role and a successor is greatly needed. Self nominations are encouraged, if you are interested please contact me. Last year we had a fine meeting of the CIOR/CIOMR in Greece. The 2023 meeting will be held June 25-30 in Helsinki. If the ratification process goes smoothly in all allied countries, there is a good chance Finland will be a full NATO member in time for the Summer Congress 2023.

On another note, army researchers have developed techniques for identifying nonviable tissues during the debridement of war wounds. This advance will decrease, to some extent, excessive debridement of injured body tissues. Debridement is an important procedure for reducing infections in war wounds.

Volidays





By CDR Ellen Duvall, USN (Ret)

CDR Duvall regularly attends ROA national meetings. Her article summarizes several of the 2022 Centennial events. Following are some thoughts expressed by the **Keynote Speaker, MG John B. Hashem, USAR,** Military Executive, Reserve Forces Policy Board:



CDR Duvall

It is important that we, the military, spread our story versus allowing non-military telling our "story" to the public. Our numbers are shrinking. Delayed – entry recruit numbers are only at 76 percent of the goal. The phrase "Operational Reserve" is not a phrase in the Department of Defense. With shrinking budgets, hostility within the services increases. However, despite false claims to the contrary, Reserve forces cost 30 percent less than Active forces.

There is a new strategic environment for organization of joint commands. Full and parttime force mix is needed for global emergencies. Mobilization is not a focus in DOD, but parity is necessary with the Reserve. To have the ability to be mobilized for combat readiness, the Reserve needs to be equipped with modernized equipment to be effective in early mobilization.

Defending the homeland depends on civilian resources and military roles. When the homeland is contested, the Reserve is deployed, but the Reservist's civilian job may be in law enforcement, port authority, or other essential service needed to protect the homeland. As a member of ROA, he is impressed by the quality of ROA articles and the issues ROA is addressing. ROA members represent years and years of experience in support of the Reserve.

76 percent of U.S. citizens of military age cannot meet the minimal requirement for the military. Deficiencies include physical fitness, obesity, and drug histories. Of the 23 percent qualified to serve, 9 percent show an interest in the military. Most are uninformed and misinformed about what the military-trained bring to the country, and to employers. If body weight is a problem send them to camp to help them achieve the goal. (Poor physical fitness is one aftereffect of PE being taken out of schools.) If they have difficulty with aptitude tests, offer them 90 days of specialized training.

MG Hashem sees Russia as a third-world country with nukes. It is unable to recruit and retain a trained Reserve.

Currently 12,000 to 14,000 American Reservists are on active duty. There is a need to train employers on their obligations, especially when a Reservist returns from deployment. Likewise, Reservists need to know their rights. Unfortunately, ESGR needs more trained volunteers to help employers to understand their obligations. Guard and Reserve bring skill sets that are not present in non-

military. They can bring creative solutions and out-of-the-box thinking to civilian jobs. More than 40 percent of Human Resources offices report open positions. Dual employment is increasing in most job sectors. 11 percent of Reservists are unemployed.

All four services have not met their recruitment goals. Things to consider: is there a need for child care on drill weekends? What skill sets can be covered remotely? Are annual tests necessary or the longer the person is in the service, the longer he can wait between testing?

State of the Association: MG Jeff Phillips, USA (Ret)

Jeff referred to the posters lining the walls that highlighted ROA achievements of each decade. ROA was founded in 1922 by Great War (WWI) veterans, knowing that risk is always present and Reserve forces are essential for national security. One of the first achievements in 1924 of ROA was gaining pay for Reservists. ROA has an uncompromised focus on preparation of the Reserve Forces for immediate operational readiness and long-term strategic support. Forces are always arrayed against change in any form.

Benefits of a non-profit are intangible. E.g. Intangible draws people for ROA and include fear of foreign conquest and need for comradeship. In 1941, the Reserve was the base used to rebuild our armed forces.

DD214-1 for Reservists to have service separation documentation, for VA benefits that they earned, will be implemented in 2025. It was adopted thru policy change, not legislation. Other issues that continue to be pressed by ROA include extending dental care to the Selected Reserve as well as 24/7/365 health care and a subsidy gym allowance for Reservists to maintain physical readiness.

An area where ROA has been unsuccessful is moving the Reserve from second place to parity in importance. ROA needs to communicate our advocacy actions as we continue to work to overcome in-fighting between Active and Reserve forces.

Final Assembly -During the business section meeting five constitution amendments were considered and two passed. Missouri's attempt to allow all members to hold office was voted down for the second time. (Editors Note: MOROA should continue to allow associate members to hold department offices)

2022-01– Article A3 – Eligibility (Failed)

Proposed by the Department of Missouri. If approved, this will give associate members all the rights and privileges of regular members.

2022-02 – Article B2 - Rebates (Failed)

Proposed by the Department of Georgia. If approved, rebates will go directly to the chapters instead of the departments

2022-03 – Article B2 – Chapter Charter/Judge Advocate (Passed) Proposed by the Department of Georgia. If approved, it will no longer be required for a department to have a judge advocate to approve a chapter charter.

2022-04 – Article B11 – Building Committee (**Passed**) Proposed by the national Executive Committee. If approved, this will reestablish the Minuteman Memorial Building Committee as a standing committee.

2022-05 - Article B11 - Strategic Planning Committee (Failed) Proposed by the national Executive Committee. If approved, this will change the composition and terms of the committee. The committee would comprise, at a minimum, the chairs of all standing committees

When presenting the Sword and Screen awards, CAPT Henry Plimack specifically commended CAPT Fred Lydic and the Missouri ROA web site and recommended others "check out" the outstanding Missouri site. CAPT Dick Kallemeier received the Sword and Pen award for the Missouri Transmitter.



Lt Col Stockton, LT Richard E. Nelson IV, USN accepts the **ROA Loyalty and Support Award presented** posthumously to his father Col Rick Nelson, USAF (Ret) MSgt Brent Greene, Whiteman, AFB, CAPT Nolan

National Councilman Report

By Col Bob Shankel, USAF (Ret)

The Good

In a momentous win for veterans suffering from the effects of battlefield toxicity, such as burn pit fumes that have crippled and killed thousands, the Senate reconsidered and passed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act by an 86-11 margin, establishing service connections and the right to VA care for 23 cancers and maladies now linked to such toxins. The White House signing capped a grassroots campaign in which ROA, virtually alone among "military" service organizations, had played a key role. ROA's legislation and military policy director, Matthew Schwartzman, was featured in the Washington Post after spending the night on the Capitol steps with ROA's executive director, Jeff Phillips, Burn Pits 360 co-founder Rosie Torres, and a large group of veterans from across the nation.

U.S. Senators Roy Blunt (MO) and Gary Peters (MI) introduced a resolution to honor the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officers Association, now known as the Reserve Organization of America.

See Page 5

Our good friend Col Rick Nelson III was honored posthumously for his article on what ROA meant to him. (See page 3)

The Bad

Congress passed another continuing resolution for DOD funding. SECDEF has pleaded with Congress to pass a full funding bill. Continuing resolutions have many adverse effects on reserve units.

Congress authorized DOD to fund incentive pay monthly versus daily for those completing the requirements to maintain the incentive pay. For example, a reserve pilot who does 10 days of duty in a month currently gets 1/30th of the monthly incentive each day. The legislation authorizes a full month of the incentive. That's great, but DOD has delayed implementing this policy.

The Uglv

Since last April ROA has lost over 1200 life members. The inevitable progression of passing members from WWII, Korea and Vietnam eras is affecting our membership roles. Numbers matter. Commanders, encourage your folks to join ROA. First shirts, chiefs and sergeant majors, encourage your compatriots to join. Term membership is only \$20 per year. A modest toll for what ROA brings to each of us.

ROA 2022 Writing Contest Winning Entry Reserve Forces are Essential to National Security and so is ROA

By Col Richard Nelson III USAF (Ret)

As we know, ROA's Charter requires us to "support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security". Allow me to elaborate on some key words in that phrase as I feel they apply to our essential Reserve Forces and ROA.



Col Rick Nelson

Support – We would not be veteran members of ROA if we did not believe in supporting national security. We all took the pledge to defend our nation with our lives, if necessary. By serving as the military service organization that exclusively advocates on Capitol Hill for our Reserve Forces, ROA continues to pursue a properly funded, and equipped Reserve component, to include equal pay and benefits.

Promote - ROA promotes the equitable treatment for our Reserves within DoD and the US Congress utilizing our many resolutions and legislative initiatives. Concurrently, ROA has fully promoted issues that are important DOD wide (active and reserve), such as keeping the A-10 aircraft in service protecting ground troops from all services.

Development - Our legislative initiatives and expertise in advising on military policies are valued by members of Congress and their staff. They are known to call ROA's Legislative Staff for clarification on pending Defense oriented bills and request our staff's inputs. Over many years, ROA has established a reputation as a credible and factual source valuable to our Congressional decision makers.

(Continued on page 4)

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Execution – Our operational Reserve Forces provide capabilities in nearly every skill set in the US Armed Forces. And, in many instances, the Reserves possess the only equipment and personnel tasked with important functions, such as the Air Force Reserve's "Hurricane Hunters". The Army Reserve provides 50% of the Army's medical support, with percentages higher in several other categories. But, all of the various Reserve and National Guard units cost the American taxpayer much less that a similarly designated Active Duty unit. For example, the fully integrated Air Force Reserves perform 20% of the AF missions for just 3% of its budget. Without our highly experienced, flexible (short or long tours), and "economical" Reserve Forces, the DOD budget would need to be either greatly increased or our national defense capabilities somehow reduced. ROA is proud to play arguably an essential and leading role to ensuring the cost effective Reserve Forces are properly funded, equipped, and supported.

Adequate National Security-With the ever-present constraints on our US government's annual budget, a reduction target is often DOD's "discretionary" spending. Under this umbrella, our military leaders look for cost effective and innovative methods to still maintain national security. The Reserves Forces are the logical part of that solution with their "full up round" readiness at a much-reduced cost. Some pundits simply see the solution as reducing the total size of DOD to control costs. But to be able to fund essential missions and defense postures, the Reserves provide the "best bang for the buck". Increasing, not deceasing, their numbers to take on more will help keep us secure. They have proven themselves more than capable, particularly during the high operational tempo of the last 20+ years. But, if budget issues necessitate more workload for the Reserves, the nation needs to support these citizen warriors. Leaving your family and civilian job for long periods is stressful to all concerned. Without proper pay, medical, family support, and employer support, some Reserve members will elect to leave. We need to keep them more now than ever. To help our Reserves remain strong, ROA will continue to fight for them for at least another 100 years. To use a popular phrase, "We got their backs!" Note, ROA deeply regrets that Colonel Nelson passed from our ranks April 23, 2022. He is missed by us all.

Air Force Affairs

By Maj Brian Rutherford, USAF (Ret)

When **Col Rick Nelson** passed he was in the process of reinvigorating Chapter 442 at Whiteman Air Force Base, increasing visibility, installing new leadership and initiating a sustained membership drive. His leadership created a vacuum, as the new key leaders he recruited and installed had not yet had time to effectively manage the chapter. The remainder of the year has been a learning experience, but much progress has been made.

Because we lost Col Nelson and had a complete turnover in chapter leadership, it wasn't learned until December that the chapter had a significant, unused scholarship fund. The funds are maintained in a separate account. Chapter leadership voted to name the scholarship the Colonel Rick Nelson Memorial Scholarship, with details and criteria to be decided and announced at a later date.

Chapter leadership initiated a complete review of the chapter bylaws to be completed within the next 90 days. The chapter will consult with Department leadership and coordinate through the chapter president, **Lt Col Thomas Schmidt**, who is with the 442d Fighter Wing Legal Office, to ensure both the effectiveness of the chapter and compliance with all appropriate guidelines. A member benefits flyer was created and approved by chapter leadership. The flyer will be evaluated for impact and effectiveness and be used in future membership drives.

Elizabeth Rutherford established and manned an ROA membership recruitment booth at the 442d Fighter Wing's "Holiday Store," making contact with hundreds of members during the December Unit Training Assembly. An estimated one hundred members scanned a specially created QR code which directed them via their smart phones to the national ROA website's new member sign-up page. We should see some new memberships as a result and look forward to our next meeting to review the results of this effort.

At the state Air Force level, a conscious effort will be made in 2023 to identify other units where local chapters may be established such as with the Air National Guard units at Whiteman Air Force Base and Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. In addition, strategies will be explored and implemented to recruit guard and reserve members and retirees living in Missouri but serving in other states. recruited into the Department.

A-10 wing upgrade-By Russ Niles AVWweb

New sets of sturdier wings that will extend the A-10 Thunderbolt's service life for thousands of flight hours are arriving even as the U.S. Air Force continues to push plans for putting the close air support jets out to pasture. Boeing delivered 173 wing assemblies



under an initial re-winging effort completed in 2017. The production line lay dormant before the Air Force ordered new wing sets in 2019. In partnership with Korean Aerospace Industries, Boeing announced the delivery of the first of 50 new wing sets on order to Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah, on May 25. Air Force maintainers have already begun integrating the more durable wings onto an A-10, according to Boeing.

The Air Force has 281 A-10s in its current fleet, though it plans to divest 21 in fiscal year 2023 if Congress allows it. The A-10 is the cheapest aircraft to operate in the Air Force's tactical jet portfolio. Each wing set consists of outer wing assemblies, center wing assembly, control surfaces, and a fuselage integration kit designed to extend an A-10's service life to 10,000 flight hours from about 8,000

hours, and possibly well beyond.

"Boeing is working diligently to deliver greatly needed target, all of the others had to dig deep into their pools of new wings for the A-10 fleet," Lt. Col. Jaclyn Melton, materiel leader for A-10 Programs in the A-10 System Program Office at Hill Air Force Base, said in a prepared statement. Boeing is under a contract with a maximum value of \$999 million to produce up to 112 wing sets and spare kits through 2030.

Pershing Museum

By COL Michael Clarke

General John "Black Jack" Pershing was born and raised in Laclede, Missouri, roughly 100 miles NE of Kansas City. There is a fine historical museum located in his boyhood home. On September 11, MOROA leaders ventured to the small village to help celebrate Pershing days. RADM J. Stanton Thompson, USN (Ret), Past Department President, Col Robert Shankel, USAF (Ret), Past Department President and current Department President COL Michael Clarke, USA (Ret) presented a proclamation which was read by COL Shankel and signed by ROA's 80th National President, Lt Col, Don Stockton, USAF (Ret).

The state maintains the museum dedicated to the famous citisolder. zen Pershing graduated from the U.S. Military



Academy at West Point, in 1886. He served as commander of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I.

General Pershing helped establish the Reserve Officers Association in 1922. Later in 1950, ROA was chartered by congress, and the charter was signed by another famous Missouri native son, President Harry S Truman.

Immediately adjacent to Pershing Museum is the Laclede city park where Pershing's birthday celebration takes place around September 13 each year. Pershing's year of Birth was 1860. Sunday of the Pershing days included an antique car parade, ice cream social, cake walk, and many games followed by the presentation of our proclamation recognizing Missouri's native son Pershing.

Army Affairs

Submitted by CPT Roger Pleus, USA (Ret)

Army misses recruiting goal by 15,000 soldiers

The Army fell about 15,000 soldiers -or 25% - short of its recruitment goal this year, officials confirmed Friday, despite a frantic effort to make up the widely expected gap in a year when all the military services struggled in a tight jobs market to find young people willing and fit to enlist.

While the Army was the only service that didn't meet its delayed entry applicants, which will put them behind as they begin the next recruiting year on Saturday.

The worsening problem stirs debate about whether America's fighting force should be restructured or reduced in size if the services can't recruit enough and could also put added pressure on the National Guard and Reserve to help meet mission requirements.

According to officials, the Marine Corps, which usually goes into each fiscal year with as much as 50% of its recruiting goal already locked in, has only a bit more than 30%. And the Air Force and the Navy will only have about 10% of their goals as they start the new fiscal year. The Air Force usually has about 25%. Officials spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details on the recruiting totals that have not yet been released.

"In the Army's most challenging recruiting year since the start of the all-volunteer force, we will only achieve 75% of our fiscal year 22 recruiting goal," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said in a statement to The Associated Press. "The Army will maintain its readiness and meet all our national security requirements. If recruiting challenges persist, we will draw on the Guard and Reserve to augment active-duty forces and may need to trim our force structure."

U.S. Senate Centennial Resolution

By Matthew Schwartzman, ROA Legislative Director

On November 16, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved S.Res. 820, honoring the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Organization of America.

"On behalf of ROA, I thank Senators Roy Blunt and Gary Peters for championing this historic resolution and longstanding partnership to advance the cause of Reserve Component readiness," said ROA's executive director, retired U.S. Army MG Jeffrey Phillips. "For more than a century, ROA has been unwavering in upholding its founding principles; ROA will continue to fight for the development and execution of military policy that provides strong national security through its focus on Reserve and National Guard readiness."

Senate Resolution 820 recognizes that ROA is a respected advocate for national security and readiness, honors the vital role ROA has played in strengthening the strategic and operational role of the Reserve Components and supports ROA's focus on military readiness and the care of those who serve in the Reserve and National Guard, their families, and veterans of the Reserve Components.

"The swift advancement of this resolution is a direct reflection of the positive reputation ROA has on the Hill," said ROA's legislation and military policy director, Matthew Schwartzman. "Congress knows it can count on ROA to tackle the big issues that our military must overcome to assure our dominance over our adversaries. With the unanimous passage of S.Res. 820, this fact is now cap-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) **Centennial Resolution**

tured for all time."

In the resolution, the Senate "recognizes that the Reserve Organization of America is a respected advocate for national security and readiness; honors the vital role the Reserve Organization of America has played throughout the organization's 100 years of service in strengthening the strategic and operational role of the Reserve components of the United States military; and supports the Reserve Organization of America's focus on the readiness of the Reserve components and the care of those who serve in the Reserve and National Guard, their families, and veterans of the Reserve components."

ROA's legislation and military policy program is focusing on closing out the 117th Congress strong and starting the 118th right. This begins with relentless efforts to secure the speedy advancement of the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. That will lead to the unveiling of an ambitious legislative agenda for the 118th Congress, aimed at assisting the Reserve Components in achieving recruiting and retention goals, adequately funding modernization needs and meeting deploy ability requirements.

Through unprecedented partnerships with strategic mission partners, including the Reserve Forces Policy Board, ROA will move into its second century of service to America by placing policies and programs that support national security and readiness at the forefront of its legislative advocacy strategy and – as it has for a century – by fighting for a ready Reserve force.

2023 NDAA passage?

After months of negotiations, lawmakers on 13 December released the text of the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which would support \$857.9 billion in defense spending in fiscal year 2023. The 2023 NDAA includes \$816.7 billion for the Department of Defense, a roughly \$45 billion increase from the amount requested by President Joe Biden earlier this year – an increase intended in large part "to address the effects of inflation" on the Pentagon budget. It would also provide \$30.3 billion for national security programs at the Department of Energy. Together, those two items produce a topline figure of roughly \$847 billion for the 2023 NDAA. Additionally, lawmakers plan to provide \$10.6 billion for defenserelated projects that fall outside the jurisdiction of the NDAA, producing an overall topline for national defense of roughly \$858 billion.

Here are some notable highlights from the 4,408-page defense authorization bill, dubbed the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, drawn from the more easily digested 18-page executive summary: The defense budget will be 8% larger in 2023 than in 2022.

• Over the White House's objections, the Covid-19 vac-

- cine mandate for military personnel will be repealed 30 days after the bill is signed into law.
- Active-duty personnel will receive a 4.6% pay raise, which Military.com says is the largest pay hike in 20 years, even if it falls short of a roughly 7% inflation rate.
- Ukraine will receive \$800 million in additional military assistance.
- Taiwan may receive up to \$10 billion in military aid over 10 years, and the Pentagon is tasked with producing a report on China's strategy for the use of force against the island nation. (Defense One reports that Taiwan was the most frequently cited foreign nation in the bill, with 438 mentions, far more than Russia (237 mentions) or Ukraine (159).)
- The Navy will receive \$32 billion for new ships, including three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and two Virginia-class submarines.
- The Pentagon is authorized to purchase 36 more F-35 stealth jets, across three variants.
- The Air Force is authorized to start retiring the A-10 Warthog.

As the Transmitter goes to press the NDAA awaits the President's signature.



MOROA PATRIOT AWARD

The *Patriot Award* is given to members contributing the equivalent of their first military retirement check to the Department. It recognizes the member's leadership, support and commitment to the Reserve Officers Association objective of "providing adequate national security to

the United States" as highly commendable and in the spirit of a true American Patriot. The member may direct the funds to the contingency trust, general operating fund or a specific program/event.

LTC Richard Carpenter, USA (Ret) 2006 Lt Col Donald Stockton, USAF (Ret) COL Glenn Wilson, USA (Ret) 2007 CAPT Michael Nolan, USN (Ret) 2008 **CAPT Richard Kallemeier, USN (Ret)** CW4 John Travers, USA (Ret) 2009 Col Richard Nelson, USAF (Ret) 2011 CDR Ellen Duvall, USN (Ret) **CAPT Robert Eade USN (Ret)** 2013 Col Robert Shankel, USAF (Ret) 2017

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LtCol Walter Conrad

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I wish to contribute \$	in support of the Charitable Contingency Trust Fund. Please accept a \$			
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Mail contribution to CCTF Treasurer, CW4 John Travers, 2804 S. Breckenridge Dr., Independence, MO 64055				



Department of Missouri 9225 Cascade Ave., Apt 1118 West Des Moines, IA 50266



December 2022 MOROA Transmitter Page 8

Calendar of Events

CIOR/CIOMR Mid-Winter Conference, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium 1/30-2/3/23

National Leadership Meeting, Washington, DC 11-14 March 2023

2023 MOROA Department Convention, tentative date and location 19-21 May, Independence, MO near the Truman Library

CIOR/CIOMR Summer Congress, Helsinki, Finland, 25-30 June 2023.

ROA members living in Missouri who are not assigned to the Department of Missouri are receiving the "*Transmitter*". Those interested in affiliating with the this Department are encouraged to contact the Editor/

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