

3 March 2010

To: ROA Department Army VP's and Jr VP's
CC: Department President, Department Secretary/Treasurer, National Council
Members, Army EXCOM Members

Our first National Convention in DC (formerly Mid-winter) just ended. Multiple challenges from the weather occurred causing many cancellations. We had approximately 575 attendees which is quite remarkable given the double snow storm (Friday-Saturday and another on Tuesday-Wednesday) which created the biggest snowstorms to ever hit DC.

Our Keynote Speaker; The Honorable Secretary of Veterans Affairs and retired General Erik Shinseki gave a great overview. His key point was; Caring for Veterans is VA's only mission. This is accomplished with 153 Medical centers affiliated with 122 of the Nation's top medical schools. Care is also administered through the 783 community based outpatient clinics across the country.

General Shinseki went on to say that his main three focus areas are: 1. Improve Access; 2. Reduce the backlog; and 3. Provide help for homeless veterans.

While his speech was only about 10 minutes, it is not feasible to capture all his points in this document.

Here is the link for those of you who wish to see entire speech:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNeL8oYX-3E>

If you watch closely at the start you will see your Army VP in ACU's ☺

Key outputs from our National Convention include:

- Proposed new Constitution and Bylaws to be voted on next year
- Dues Increase effective April 1, 2010
- Resolution renewals and new ones passed

Our Army section meeting had a great presentation by LTG Stultz, as he discussed the Army Reserve transformation and how he is aligning our force with the Chief of Staff's 4 major Enterprise initiatives: Human Capital; Material; Readiness; services and Infrastructure.

During the Army Section meeting I announced the Army leadership meeting in conjunction with the National Council meeting in Las Vegas scheduled June 25-27.

Early registration for the National Council meeting is \$99

Our Army section meeting will be a half day intense Saturday morning meeting on the 26th. This was chosen so that those working could work a full day Friday and fly to Las Vegas in time for our Saturday morning meeting. If they chose, they could leave Saturday PM or stay in Vegas for a relaxing night. Hotels through the National Council

meeting have been arranged at a great \$59 per night (plus tax). The Army will have a \$10 registration to help defray cost.

I respectfully request that each Department Army VP and Department Jr VP or their representative attend our meeting on June 26. The new Constitution and Bylaws will be a major shift for our organization and it is the important agenda item. The vote will be at the next National Meeting so we need to discuss all implications. I believe it is a positive strategic shift yet we do need to discuss thoroughly.

These are the agenda items for discussion:

- Constitution and Bylaws
- EXCOM Policies
- Legislative Issue
- Department Army VP inputs on how to make ROA better.

Before the meeting in Las Vegas, I will be sending a draft of the C & B for us to work on during our meeting. Thanks for your service to ROA, our Army, and our Nation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Silva
Brigadier General
ROA Army VP