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MERIDIAN

MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
"GATEWAY TO SUCCESS"

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2012



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2012



1ST QTR 2012

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Regional VP Summit

The National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) held its first (at least in recent years) combined regional summit Regional Summit on 21 Jan at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, LA. The event was attended by the National President – CAPT Anthony Barnes, USN (ret) and spearheaded by the four National Regional VPs Col Robert Clements, USMC, LtCol David Everly, USMC, CDR Lamar Johnson, USCG (ret) and LCDR Herlena Washington, USN (ret). Other National Board members who attended were: the Treasurer, LtCol Grady Belyeu, USMC; the JAG, the Honorable Tamia Gordon. The summit attendees included 20 presidents, vice presidents, and chapter representatives from all four regions.

The purpose of the summit was to update, educate, and inspire all representatives to manage their chapters according to the National Bylaws and Operations Manual.

The National President opened the conference with his strategic plan for 2012. He discussed the 40th annual conference being held July 2012 at the Roosevelt Hotel. He thanked each of the Presidents for all that they have done to contribute to the success of their chapters and to NNOA. CAPT Barnes closed with how much pride he had in how the summit attendees were leading and guiding each of their chapters.

Each of the National board members that attended presented updates on:

- Financial update of the organization–
- Legal matters from the board that effect the chapters
- Social networking, website, and the Meridian
- New Outreach award, Chapter membership, dues, updating member profiles, website permissions
- Awards – After Action Reports, Formats, Deadlines

The VP's reviewed the National Website and stressed the importance of the Operations Manual. The Ops Manual is the board's tool for successfully running a chapter. Attendees were advised to read, learn, and execute the OPs Manual within their chapters and have their members do the same.

The final segment of the conference was dedicated to the chapter representatives in a round table discussion and presentation of individual issues, concerns, and to share ideas that were working for their chapters.

The summit was a big success and those in attendance went away with innovative ways of running their chapters successfully now and into the future.

By: Herlena Washington LCDR (Ret), Eastern Region VP

NNOA Navy Rep's Corner



Salutations:

Welcome to the NNOA Navy Rep's Corner!!! Thank you for your support during the 2011 Conference in electing me to be your NNOA Navy Representative. It was a humbling experience. Now, the conference planning committee is in full swing planning for our 2012, 40th Annual Training Conference. Your request for more career development was heard and

taken for action. During this year's conference we will have two breakout sessions focusing on Fitness Report (FitRep)/ FitRep Writing/ Officer Service Record (OSR) and Promotion Boards. An appreciation goes out to CDR Blassingame for taking the lead to coordinate these sessions. If you are planning to attend the conference and you have been a member on a promotion board please contact CDR Simonia Blassingame at simonia.blassingame@navy.mil and include your role on the board (s), board type (admin or statutory) and timeframe.

There will be one-on-one mentoring sessions with senior officers to review your OSR/FitRep. So bring those items to the conference as well as craft a draft FitRep of what you have accomplished so far during your upcoming FitRep cycle. There will be a critiquing opportunity of your draft FitRep. Remember Commander FitReps are due in April, Lieutenant Commanders FitRep are due in October, Lieutenants are due in January, Lieutenant Junior Grade FitReps are due in February and Ensign FitReps are due in May. This will be an ideal practical chance to have your FitRep started/ done early, so you can present to your supervisor a helpful baseline Fitness Report to ensure a polished final product.

We need volunteers to do mentoring sessions with junior officers , so Senior Officers who plan to attend the conference if you are interested in serving as a mentor for the one-on-one mentoring sessions, please send an email to navy-rep@nnoa.org or joel.parker@med.navy.mil and include your designator/ service community.

It is indeed an honor to serve you and I am looking forward to a successful 2012 conference with many valuable walk ways for the attendees.

Sincerely,

*CAPT Joel Parker
NNOA Navy Representative*

Pringle takes Command of USS Makin LHD 8



CAPT. Cedric E. Pringle speaks at the Makin Island Change of Command Ceremony, Feb 29. Pringle relieved CAPT James Landers as Makin Island's commanding officer. For the next 18 months LHD 8 the USS Makin Island will be in the very capable hands of NNOA Life Member Cedric Pringle. [pictured out going CO CAPT Landers, Admin Off. LT Brown and XO CAPT Alvin Holsey Photos Makin Island Public Affairs Office]

Chief Administrative Law Judge



On 7 Dec 2011 Regional Chief Administrative Law Judge William J. King, Jr. announced the appointment of the new Hearing Office Chief Administrative Law Judge — Fresno, CA. The name of the appointee was none other than our very own NNOA JAG, Judge, now Chief Judge Tamia Gordon. Chief Judge King also praised Chief Judge Gordon for her “quick mastery of program and caseload management as well as a positive, collegial style dealing with peers and staff alike.” Congratulations Chief Administrative Law Judge Tamia N. Gordon.



*Commander Monika Stoker —
Commanding Officer USS Mitscher
(DDG-57)*



CDR Monika Washington Stoker made the history books when she took command of the USS Mitscher (DDG-57). She is the first African American female to command an Arleigh Burke— class Aegis guided missile destroyer.



Four Stars for Haney

In 1996, J. Paul Reason became the first African American in the U. S. Navy history to be promoted to Admiral and wear 4 stars. Upon his retirement in 1999 he still remained the only African American in the Navy history to achieve such rank. The gap was closed on Jan. 20, 2012 in Pearl Harbor, HI when Cecil D. Haney was promoted to the rank of Admiral in a ceremony presided over by Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jonathan Greenert. With this promotion ADM Haney assumed command of the world's largest fleet command, the United States Pacific Fleet. His area of responsibility encompasses 100 million square miles from the west coast of the United States into the Indian Ocean with approximately 180 ships, nearly 2,000 aircraft and 125,000 Sailors, Marines and Civilians. [Maj JB Davis, PAO]



Adm. Cecil Haney has his new shoulder boards, signifying his promotion to the rank of Admiral, placed on his uniform by his wife Bonny, left, and his daughter. [Navy photo by MCS2 David Kolmel]



Adm. Cecil Haney delivers remarks during the U.S. Pacific Fleet change of command ceremony. [Navy photo by MCS2 David Kolmel]

On the Cover: PEARL HARBOR (Jan. 20,2012) Adm. Cecil Haney passes through ceremonial sideboys following a change of command ceremony during which he relieved Adm. Patrick M. Walsh as the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander. [U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David Kolmel] RDML Annie Andrews stands between her mother Retired Captain Electa Andrews, of the Liberty County Sheriff Department and her sister: Deborah Andrews Dawson, RN and a former Justice of the Peace. [NNOA Photo by Maj. J.B. Davis]

Everly takes command



On a sunny day at Camp Pendleton, CA, Capt Natasha M. Everly assumed command of Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group from Capt Jason M. Kikta.

When given her opportunity to address those present Everly thanked Col Clark (CO of CLR-17), for the opportunity to command the company and assured him of her dedication. She gave a special thank you to MajGen

Ronald Bailey (CG, 1st Mar Div) for carving time out of his busy schedule to attend. To her husband LtCol David Everly (CO, 5th Bn/11th Mar) she said; "You are truly My ROLE MODEL Marine and every day my goal is to be as good a Marine Officer as you are. Thank you for being my sounding board on so many occasions, and for always being my biggest supporter."

Finally, Everly addressed the Marines of Comm. Co. CLR-17 saying; "I am excited to get to know and work with each and every one of you. I've watched you guys from afar over the last few years, and you've done some outstanding things. Our goal will be to continue to build on the successes that you've already had. So with that, I'll leave you with one of the many sayings of my husband; "Giddy Up!" and let's have some fun as we strive for excellence in all that we do over these upcoming months."



The ceremony included the transfer of the company guidon. The guidon symbolizes the responsibility, authority and accountability of command. Transfer of the guidon symbolizes relinquishing of command by Kikta to Everly. [Photos by LCpl. Jerrick J. Griffin]

Houston teams up with the Urban League to help prepare students for college

On November 13, 2011, the Houston Chapter of NNOA *teamed up with the Urban League Young Professionals to help prepare over 150 high school students for college.* The one-day event was held at Texas Southern University and was led, in part, by one of NNOA Houston's esteemed members, Mr. Xavier Samuels. Students were provided tutorials and tips on selecting the right institution, applying for admission, and financial aid, among other critical facets of the college preparatory process. Students were also provided additional guidance.



ENS Sabrina Taylor, an engineer afloat with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, speaks with several students interested in becoming engineers.

NNOA Houston members served as mentors and helped facilitate sessions. More importantly, our members drew from their professional experiences in Engineering, Finance, etc. providing great insight for the students. It was also a great opportunity for NNOA Houston to represent the sea services and share the benefits of a career as a Commissioned Officer. Many of the students were unaware that Commissioned

Officers worked within many of the professional disciplines they sought. Once the connection was made, the discussions took off! We look forward to joining with the Urban League Young Professionals on next year!



LCDR Christy Rutherford shares tips on degree field choices.



NNOA Houston and Urban league Young Professionals event organizers. (l-r), Elijah Thomas, ENS Eric Hudson, April Todd, ENS Sabrina Taylor, Vinnika Johnson, LCDR Will Watson, and LCDR Christy Rutherford.

Live Streaming Leadership Lessons

It has been said time and again that we must leverage technology for maximum advantage. Well NNOA Houston has decided to do just that! Spearheaded by our energetic Professional Development Chairperson, LCDR Christy Rutherford, we have launched our Live Streaming Leadership Lecture Series in 2012. Chapter President LCDR Will Watson stated *"We believe that through technology, we can reach out to any leader anywhere in the world and bring them into our midst."* It is an exciting prospect!
[LT Derricka Fortson, Houston Chapter PAO]



Vice Admiral Manson Brown, PACAREA Commander, USCG, streams in via web to share leadership lessons with NNOA Houston and USCG MSU Texas City.

Pendleton Member in the Spotlight 1stLt Zerbin Singleton

1stLt Singleton was born in Anchorage, Alaska where he began enduring and overcoming hardships. Due to his mother's drug addiction and run-ins with the law, he often moved around between living with his mother and other family members. 1stLt Singleton relocated to Georgia when he was 10 due to his mother's incarceration. In Georgia he resided with his cousins whom he considers his second set of parents.

After arriving to Georgia and adjusting to the different culture and climate, 1stLt Singleton began to excel both academically and athletically. During his mid-teenage years he also got a chance to meet his biological father and they started to build a strong relationship. After much dedication and hard work 1stLt Singleton was accepted into the Naval Academy in 2003, but his admission was deferred due to the broken collarbone he suffered when he was hit by a drunk driver just one week before graduating from high school.

1stLt Singleton began his post-secondary education at Georgia Tech and transferred after a year to the Naval Academy. His tenure at the Academy was a bit of a roller coaster ride. During Lt Singleton's Plebe/Freshmen year, his father committed suicide. Lt Singleton's strong faith in God helped him to bounce back and continue on with his education. While at the Academy, 1stLt Singleton not only majored in aerospace engineering but also started on the Varsity football team. He was honored nationally by being awarded the Orange Bowl Courage Award and the Disney/ESPN Spirit Award. His last year at the Academy he served as the Brigade Commander, the highest ranking position for a midshipman, and graduated in 2008 with a B.S in Aerospace Engineering. He also became the first male in his family to graduate from college.

After being commissioned as a 2ndLt in the Marine Corps, Lt Singleton worked at the Academy as a graduate assistant with the

football team for the next season. He then went on to graduate from The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia before entering flight school at NAS Pensacola and NAS Corpus Christi. He received his wings at NAS Whiting Field this past September with follow-on orders to fly the CH-46 Sea Knight. 1stLt Singleton is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton in the FRS (Fleet Replacement Squadron) HMMT-164 Nightriders' learning to fly the CH-46 and serving as the S-5.

In his spare time, 1stLt Singleton serves as an inspirational speaker, speaking around the nation about his life story and how he overcame various trials and tribulations to become the Marine he is today. He has been a role model in the community both as a volunteer and a mentor. 1stLt Singleton is also a Man of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

1stLt Singleton was first introduced to NNOA while he attended the Naval Academy. He attended his first National Conference in 2010 in Virginia. Although 1stLt Singleton has only recently joined the Camp Pendleton chapter he currently serves on the fundraising committee and is eager to put in work for the chapter. *[by Capt Natasha Everly]*



Pensacola Chapter On the Move in the Community

On 24 Jan 12, the Pensacola Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) conducted a community outreach event at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen in Pensacola, Florida. Loaves and Fishes is a non-profit organization that prides itself on providing a safe, clean, uplifting environment for those in the community who find themselves in need. The organization's goal since its inception in 1983 has been to reach out to homeless men, women and children in an effort to meet their needs both spiritually and materially. Loaves and Fishes typically provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner opportunities throughout the week. The chapter bought and prepared the meal, and served 130 men, women, and children. The NNOA-sponsored dinner allowed for an additional meal that week.

[by CDR Mitzi Ellis]



In front of the cart, waiting to take the plates to the seated individuals are LT April Reaves and LT Michael Howard. Behind the cart filling the plates are CDR Mitzi Ellis, LT LaTanya Rose, CDR Rob Dews and unknown worker.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL APPROVED FOR MONTFORD POINT MARINES

ALMAR 047/11

1. On 23 November 2011, the President of the United States signed into law a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest civilian honor for distinguished achievement.
2. Our Montford Point brothers are patriots. From 1942-1949, nearly 20,000 African-American men from across America came to Montford Point camp in Jacksonville, North Carolina seeking the American dream of inclusion and the opportunity to defend our country as a United States Marine. Like the wider society at large that was socially and culturally divided by race, the Marine Corps trained these men separately denying them their rightful place in the Corps and in its rich tradition of service. These men served in battle, provided critical supplies to those on the front lines and evacuated the wounded to safety. They did their jobs with professionalism and ably proved their courage in epic battles of the Pacific like Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.
3. Because these men persevered, the Marine Corps underwent a social awakening that laid the foundation for greater equality and opportunity. Many Montford Point Marines carried their exceptional strength of character to their lives outside the Marine Corps, becoming leaders in their communities, mayors, ambassadors, educators, lawyers, ministers, and doctors. Some went on to integrate the shipyards of America, weaving equality of opportunity into the fabric of our society. Their story is one of triumph over adversity. Their legacy of courage and perseverance is an inspiration to all Marines.
4. The diversity of today's Marine Corps was paved in large part by the selfless dedication to duty of the Montford Point Marines. Few of these heroes remain today. Of the nearly 20,000 African-American Marines who went through Montford Point, approximately 200 still survive. The Congressional Gold Medal will honor all Montford Point Marines from a grateful nation and Marine Corps.
5. This recognition is made possible through the dedicated and persistent work of the Montford Point Marine Association, numerous active, reserve, retired, and civilian marines, and the faithfulness of members of congress; thank you. Congratulations on a job well done.
6. Semper Fidelis. James F. Amos, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Bayou Chapter Raises Awareness of Montford Point Marines and CG Station Pea Island

New Orleans, LA - On February 16, 2012, in observance of Black History Month, NNOA Bayou Chapter sponsored a special viewing of

the films: "Rescue Men" and "The Montford Point Marines". In attendance were over 25 Coast Guardsmen and Coast Guard Civilians. Both films highlight significant accomplishments among African Americans in the USMC and USCG. This event raised cultural awareness, ethnic diversity as well as celebrated African American heroes who proudly served within the sea going services. The event was organized by LTJG Marquesio Robinson, LTJG Donald Porter, and Major Lionel Blackman. It was held at CG Sector New Orleans. The Bayou Chapter provided a light lunch and an assortment of beverages for all in attendance.

In addition to providing the "Montford Point" DVD, a special presentation on "Marine Fitness" was provided by Major Lionel B. Blackman Sr., USMC. Major Blackman's presentation keyed in on many of the strenuous physical fitness requirements each Marine must pass in order to stay within USMC regulations. The presentation sparked an assortment of questions and high interest among many of the USCG junior Petty Officers in the audience. His presentation helped fuse a gap amongst neighboring USMC and USCG commands opening the door for more shared Marine Corp and Coast Guard events.

NNOA Bayou Chapter strives to encourage diversity and camaraderie amongst the community as well as within the sea going services.

[Submitted by LCDR Ben Fleming and ENS Eugenia Leonard, Bayou Chapter]

Jacksonville Chapter honors Dr. King



Military and civilian personnel at NAS Jacksonville took time to celebrate and recognize the historic accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the NAS Jax Base Chapel Jan 19. RDML (Ret) Gene Kendall, Chapter Advisor of the NAS Jax Chapter, Jax, FL, was the featured guest speaker during NAS Jacksonville Multi-Cultural Association Committee program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Jacksonville Chapter came and supported RDML (Ret) Gene Kendall for the event. *[pictured from left to right are LT (ret) Harold Jones, LT Howard Milligan, LT Geoff Scott (res), RDML (ret) Gene Kendall, LCDR Herlena Washington (ret), CW02 Lionel Jeffcoat, LCDR Brian Martin (res)]*

Black Engineer of the Year Awards 2012



Career Achievement in Government

CDR William Makell Jr, USCG, currently serves as Ethnic Policy Advisor, Office of Diversity, HQ USCG. CDR Makell was presented the Black Engineer of the Year Award for “Career Achievement in Government” by VADM Manson Brown, USCG, Commander, Pacific Area and Commander Coast Guard Defense Force West. CDR Makell says “being proactive is what it takes to be successful in life. Don’t let the world pass you by. Network, Network, Network and Take responsibility!” [pictured with his wife Rhonda, by Maj J.B. Davis]



Stars and Stripes Award

LtGen. Willie J. Williams presents Lt. Col. Brian Cavanaugh, Director of Marine Corps Safety, with the Stars and Stripes award at the 7th Annual Stars and Stripes Dinner, part of the 26th Annual National Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Science Technology Engineer Math (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference, Feb. 17, Philadelphia. The award recognizes pioneers who have achieved career gains in government, merited lifetime achievement recognition and have energized their companies and their communities alike. [By Sgt Jimmy D. Shea, USMC]



Modern Day Technology Leadership Award

Tyrone Taborn, Career Communications Group Publisher, and Kendall T. Harris, Prairie View A&M University Engineering Dean, present Maj. Jason B. Davis, Marine Forces Command, with the Modern Day Technology Leadership award, at the Modern Day Technology Leadership Luncheon, part of the 26th Annual BEYA Science Technology Engineer Math (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference, Feb. 17, Philadelphia. These awardees are women and men who are shaping the future of engineering, science, and technology. [By Sgt Jimmy D. Shea, USMC]



Zeta Phi Beta Community Pearl Honoree

CDR Andrea Petrovanie was chosen by Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as one of their 2011-2012 Community Pearl Honorees. Her hard work, dedication and ideals of service have catapulted her to success in the community and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. This is an annual event that celebrates the positive accomplishments and contributions made by women in Duval, Nassau, St. Johns and Clay County communities in the state of Florida. [CDR Petrovanie (2nd from left) is pictured with her staff during the morning brief. by Jacksonville Chapter PAO]



NATIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Serving the Sea Services

P. O. Box 10871

Alexandria, VA 22310-0871

MEMORANDUM

March 29, 2012

From: LCDR Bill Shelton, USCG, JAG, Retired

Parliamentarian

To: General Membership

Subject: ELECTIONS

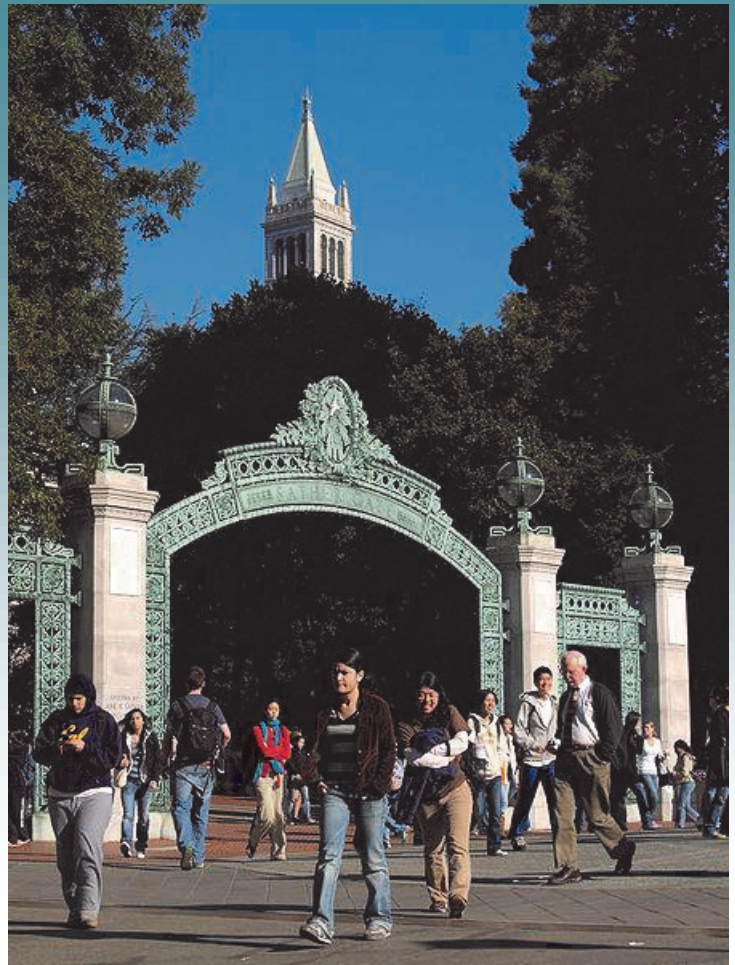
1. The offices to be filled this year are the President, Secretary, Membership Director, Chaplain, Western Regional Vice President, Central Regional Vice President, Master-at-Arms and Parliamentarian for two year terms. Additionally we will elect the three Service Representatives (one from the Navy, one from the Marine Corps and one from the Coast Guard) and the Reserve Representative and the Retired Representative for one year terms as we do annually. The three Service Representatives and the Reserve Representative and the Retired Representative shall be elected by their respective service/community and ratified by the General Assembly.
2. I anticipate several proposed amendments to the articles and/or bylaws being offered to the body that will, if adopted, change the structure of the board. I know that one proposed change will be to make the Service Representatives and the Reserve Representative and the Retired Representative two year terms to add some experience and continuity to those positions. If adopted, every elected member of the board will have two year terms. There is also discussion about the possibility of eliminating some board positions in an effort to streamline the board and reduce board expenses. I am still working with the board on exactly what amendments will be offered. These proposed amendments will be posted on the website consistent with the notice requirements in the articles and bylaws.
3. If you are anyone that you know of is interested in filling a vacant position then please notify me as soon as possible so I can advise you of the proper procedure and make your intentions known to the nomination/election committee.
4. If any member has any questions that I can address prior to the conference, please email me at billshelton123@comcast.net.

Bill Shelton

Parliamentarian

Satisfaction! Departure

Every organization seeks the best qualified to maintain a high performing workforce, and the military is no exception. However, many of our best and brightest leave the service from personal or organizational dissatisfaction. While on active duty, I witnessed shipmates separating from the service for many of the following reasons. Bureaucracy is probably the number one reason why high performers separate. Highly talented people get very frustrated when dealing repeatedly with red tape (road blocks that create delays and/or dampen customer and employee satisfaction. And having no voice in the process is a sure means for pushing self-motivated talent right out the door. Exploiting the talent level and skills of highly self-motivated persons will usually guarantee loyalty. These individuals are usually very eager to contribute and often will develop excellent methods to achieve success. If there is little opportunity to express personal creativity, they will likely look to explore career options elsewhere. Performance Review is always a very touchy subject – because while some consider numerical values on a review to be secondary to constructing a solid narrative that validates your career potential, my opinion is that both are equally important; and that using words like “Masterful” and “Exceptional” paired with a numerical score of 5 or 6 out of 7 is absurd and sends a conflicting message to the selection board. High performers receiving conflicting remarks often leave disgusted with their treatment. Constant Impulse Change – I applaud companies trying



to build an incubator around their talent by giving them new exciting projects to work on. The challenge for most organizations is not setting up a strategic priority, like establishing an incubator, but staying the course. Top talent hates to be “jerked around.” If you commit to a project that they will be heading up, you’ve got to give them enough opportunity to deliver the finished product. Career/Professional Development to me is leadership that includes helping others to identify paths to achieve personal and professional growth. Pigeonholing high performers will surely result an early departure and a lack of expertise necessary to maintain mission success. Lack of Accountability – top talent demands accountability from others and doesn’t mind being held accountable. Have regular touch points with your best people as they work through their projects. They’ll appreciate your insights as long as it does not spillover into preaching. Pairing Colleagues – what are the rest of the people around your top talent like? Many organizations keep some people on the payroll that rationally shouldn’t be there. You’ll get a litany of rationales explaining why when you ask. “It’s too hard to find a replacement for him/her...” “Now’s not the time...” However, doing exit interviews with the best people leaving big companies you often hear how they were turned off by some of their former “team mates.” If you want to keep your best people, make sure they’re surrounded by other great people. Vision – while this may seem obvious, many organizations lack a clear vision. To high performers, understanding mission direction, organizational strategy, and their role in accomplishing the mission is crucial. Did they have input into the vision? If not, there is plenty of work to do. [by CDR Adolph Keys]

—PAO Note: CDR Keys is the Public Affairs Officer for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter and a regular contributor to the Meridian

Membership Director Outreach

Dear NNOA members,

This year we are celebrating our 40th anniversary, "Celebrating 40 Years of Service, Enhancing Diversity in the Sea Services."

As an organization we are continuing to pursue our vision of, "Strengthening of a diverse officer corps to enhance operational readiness in the Sea Services." In order to make this vision a reality, as an organization we must strengthen our forces through membership.

Membership is vital to our association. Every member counts as we move forward in our mission to actively support the Sea Services in the development of a diverse officer corps through recruitment, retention, and career development.

I know that we all get busy and sometimes need reminders. Your membership in NNOA is essential. This is a reminder to go online and pay your membership dues. Just go to www.nnoa.org today - it is a secure and safe way to pay!

Also, we are scrubbing our books to get full accountability of all NNOA members. In order to do so, I need your help. Even if you have paid dues, please go to our website www.nnoa.org and update your profile. This will ensure you receive your copy of the Meridian and up-to-date news of diversity as it relates to our sea services. (Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corp)

Your paid membership can help your local chapter in winning the first ever Outreach Award. This is a monetary donation from the national board to the local chapters with the highest percentage of new national paid members in three categories (small chapter, medium chapter, and large chapter). Lastly, with your paid membership you have a vote during elections held during our annual NNOA conference on July 23-27, 2012 at The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.

I hope to see you there!

Capt Talisha Johnson

NNOA Membership Director

Monterey Happenings

Over 100 guests from the Monterey Peninsula gathered for the 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr buffet Breakfast at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey on January 14th to commemorate Dr. King's birthday. The event started in 1986 when the likes of Admiral Sinclair Harris, CDR Ava Howard, Greg Sawyer (just to name a few) and I were members in the chapter, said CDR McCallaCreary. It has been going every year except for last year and I am so pleased the school saw fit to continue supporting this event. We had a beautiful turnout and the community participation of local pop diva Lady Chico, Lucille Hurd and Saxophonist, Patt Casion said McCallaCreary gave moving tributes in song and music. The Chapter is led by President, Lt. Darryl Diptee, a PhD student who was also the M.C. of the event. The Reverend Dr. Harold R. Mayberry, Pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Church delivered an inspiring recollection of the legendary Dr. King and reminded the audience of his work and the fact that the dream is not yet fully realized. The event was televised by a local television for later viewing by the community.

[by CDR Denise McCallaCreary, USN (Ret), photo by Coby Mendoza]



Pictured (L to R) are: LCDR Jim Haskins, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter; Captain Alan Poindexter, Dean of Students, NPS Monterey; Lt. Darryl Diptee, USN, Monterey Chapter President & PhD student, Lt. Lyla Law, NPS student; CDR Denise McCallaCreary, NPS Monterey Chapter Senior Advisor; Reverend Dr. Harold Mayberry; CPO Eduardo Pareno, Navy Recruiting District San Francisco; Col Zoë M. Hale, Chief of Staff, NPS; Captain Garry Colbert, USMC, Student' Captain Gerral David, Naval Support Activity Monterey; Capt John Schmidt, Captain Don Flowers, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter and LCDR Riley, Chaplain, NPS Monterey. Not pictured: NNOA Regional Vice President, Western Region, LTCOL David Everly and his spouse Captain Natasha Everly, USMC.

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Immediate Past President

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 GLOBALNOVATIONS

*"NNOA—Celebrating 40 years of
Service, Enhancing Diversity in the Sea
Services"*

*The National Naval Officers Association
will hold its 40th Annual Leadership, Professional
Development and Training Conference*

23-27 July 2012 at the



A WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL