



## Re-energizing ROA for Those Who Serve

**T**his past year, ROA National President COL Ladd Pattillo, USAR (Ret.), declared his term as “The Year of the Citizen Warrior.” We are still engaged in a global war on terrorism, and no end appears in sight. As of the middle of August, there were 143,105 Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard members on active duty. When we are finished in Iraq and Afghanistan, the world will still be facing the threat of terrorists, as these extremists blatantly remind us.

Because of the continued commitment of our Reservists, I am going to continue President Pattillo’s theme of honoring the Citizen Warrior. I can think of nothing more appropriate or important at this time, and I take the liberty of quoting from his column in the September 2008 issue of *THE OFFICER*:

*Let us not forget that many of our Citizen Warriors were not members of the armed forces on Sept. 11, 2001. They were regular Americans—high school or college students, mothers and fathers, the kid down the street, or former servicemembers with their military days long gone. Whether they joined the Active Component or Reserve, they were citizens who stepped forward to serve their country in its time of need. Many can be found in today’s Reserve Component ranks, having completed their time in the combat zone, but wanting to continue their military service.*

A secondary theme for my term, however, will be “The Re-energizing of ROA.”

The past few years have been worrisome financially for ROA, but many steps have been taken to balance and live within the means of our budget without having to dip into ROA’s reserve capital. The headquarters staff has been reduced to less than half of what it was just a few years ago; *THE OFFICER* magazine is going to six issues a year in 2010; staff travel expenses are being closely monitored to ensure that a “need-to-go” standard is kept; some

staff positions are being converted to a contractual relationship; teleconferencing instead of face-to-face meetings are now routine; and, painful as it was to make this change, we are conducting only one annual meeting a year,

in the winter in Washington, D.C., though the National Council will continue to meet in a scaled-back gathering in the summer. In addition to reducing expenditures, we are exploring ways to increase revenue.

Keeping membership up has been a challenge for many years, and this is where the grassroots of ROA—the departments and chapters—can be of great help. I cannot, nor can the ROA staff, tackle the membership problem alone. I don’t have a

monopoly on ideas that can entice and keep new (or old) members involved.

Setting up a committee to call new members in your department, to call members who transfer in to your department, and to call delinquent members can make a difference. I do this. It works. Your personal involvement can make a difference, and this is not innovative, but merely showing personal interest. A list of delinquent, new, and transferred members is easily obtained from ROA Headquarters.

We are embarking on a project to review and make suggestions to modernize the Constitution and Bylaws of ROA, to make it easier and more efficient in the management and governance of our organization. This is not going to be an easy task as change will be involved, and change is difficult. But I believe that a majority of our members want ROA to be more efficient in its management and more responsive to the needs of its membership.

Fellow members, these are difficult economic times for all of us. We will continue to be prudent in our structure and priorities. We cannot afford to waste resources, and we need to continue to be focused on what the members believe we should be working on. I will work with all of you to make the Reserve Officers Association an even stronger professional organization as we grow in the 21st century. ▀

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