



HOUSTON AREA
PO BOX 1082
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

Vol. XLVI No.8

October 2008

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 25 RIVERBEND COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Well, September has come and gone. What a month, with the effects of Hurricane Gustav and the *really* bad one, **Hurricane Ike**. Hopefully you suffered no real loss or major damage.

The cancellation of our September board and luncheon meetings because of Hurricane Ike has put us in somewhat of a squeeze. With the end of the year in sight, we must put together a slate of officers for next year. Normally a selection committee is formed in September, but this year it will be October, with the election in December at our Annual Christmas party.

All offices are open and they include: President, 1st Vice President (speakers), 2nd Vice President (arrangements), 3rd Vice President (membership), Secretary, Treasury, Chaplain (appointed office by the board), Advertising Director, Legislative Representative, ROTC awards, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Asst. Legislative Representative, and Liaison to Military Affairs Committee. All members, including auxiliary, are eligible to hold any of the offices. Please think hard about taking your place in leadership and step forward.

THIS ORGANIZATION NEEDS YOU.

The Board of Directors meets next on Tuesday 21 October 08 at Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant; 2503 S. Gessner; Houston. Lunch starts at noon; meeting follows. Lunch is a minimum of \$7.50, but the food will take you back to Deutschland. Just say you are with the Military and they show you to the meeting room. We need your input. Lastly, our former president and webmaster is apparently unable to maintain our Website. If you know of someone who is able to help, please let a board member know.

Bill Taylor, Acting President

Officers

President

1st Vice President Program
Wayne Ritter Lt. Col. USAF
713.947.2087

Secretary

Val G. Henneberg Maj. USA
713.729.8217

Treasurer

Martin J. Harris Maj. USMC
713.436.0429

2nd Vice President

 Arrangements

Jeannette Evans, Auxiliary
281.495.2202

Legislative Representative

ROTC Scholarship
William Taylor Capt. USAR
281.482.7315

Assistant Legislative Representative

George McDowell Col. USAF
713.723.5166

Liaison

Eugene Tulich Cdr. USCG
281.376.0061

ROTC

Edward Hale Col. USAR
713.644.3796

Editor

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**MOAA Houston Area
Board Meeting**

**Tues. Oct. 21, 11:30
Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner**

Future mtg: 11/25

**MOAA Houston
Area
Monthly Meeting
and Luncheon**

Sat. Oct. 25 11:30

**Riverbend
Country Club
1214 Dulles Avenue
Sugar Land**

Menu

House Salad
Pumpkin Crusted
Chicken Breast
or
Grilled Salmon
Starch and vegetable
Coffee or Tea
Assorted Desserts
\$30

*Reservations to Jeannette
Evans, 281.495.2202, by Wed.
before (10/22).*

Speaker

Dr. Errol Wirasinghe

**"How to Make Better
Decisions"**



Dr. Errol
Wirasinghe
is a native of
Sri Lanka,
was educated
in the U.K.,
and has more

than 25 years' experience in
Decision-Making,
Optimization, Creative
Thinking, and

Strategic Planning for Shell Oil Co.,
Petroleos de Venezuela, Abu Dhabi
National Oil Co., Williams, and
Enron.

As an Oil & Gas industry specialist
and a University Professor, Errol has
published papers on topics relating to
Management, Engineering, and
Economics.

He has been involved in
decision-making methodology since
the early 70's, when he was at Shell
Oil Co., as a technique for deciding
where to drill for oil, based on seismic
studies from different locations.
Today, this process is used in
disciplines as diverse as Budgeting,
Career Planning, Safety Audits, Real
Estate, Purchasing, Bid Evaluation,
Recruiting, Performance Evaluations,
Customer Rankings, Team Selections,
etc.

Fluent in English, Spanish, and
Sinhalese, he has worked and trained
professionals in Asia, Mid-East,
Europe, North America and South
America. He has a thorough
understanding of the impact of
cultures and values on
decision-making.

Several of his consulting projects have
included negotiations on behalf of
international clients. He is an
entertaining speaker with a global
outlook and a passion for the subject,
and brings a wealth of real-life
experience and has helped many
organizations add value to their
human assets.

Dr. Wirasinghe lives in Houston
Texas, with his wife Aruni. He is the
author of *The Art of Making
Decisions: Expanding Common Sense
& Experience* (ISBN: 0972238700).

Future meetings:
11/20 Men join women at
Petroleum Club
12/6 Christmas Dance
7-10 p.m., Briar Club

**\$ Treasurer's
Report**

No change from September,
since there was no activity
because of Hurricane Ike.

Balance \$4,369.23

Martin J. Harris, Treasurer

**Military Officers
Wives Association**

**Next Meeting
October 16
Courtyard on St. James**

Menu

Garden Salad
Grilled Pork Tenderloin with
Chutney
Vegetable and starch
Rolls
Coffee or Tea

\$28

*SPECIAL NOTE: For this meeting,
reservations must be to Jeannette
Evans, 281.495.2202, by Sunday
night, 10/12*

**November meeting will
be November 20 at the
Petroleum Club with the
men joining us**

*We extend our prayers and
condolences to Haydee
Casanova on the recent loss
of her son.*

Membership Matters

Welcome to new member **Lt. Col. Michael T. Hay, USAF, and his wife Annabelle**. They reside at 3511 Ryann Ct., Pasadena, TX 77505-2270; phone 281 487-1377. Lt. Col. Hay is a retired judge. We look forward to getting to know the Hays!

Reply from Mike Rusnock

DEAR MOAA,HA:

Thank you for your kind words to my resignation letter which was printed last month in the newsletter. It reminded me of my letter to the pope requesting a dispensation (a separation from the vow of celibacy that was necessary for ordination to priesthood) to marry U.S. Civil Service, Joan T. Kist, MSBT. Since a priest is a priest forever, I needed this dispensation to be a regular member of the laity of my church with all its rights and privileges again.

While stationed in Germany, I attended some sessions of VATICAN II in Rome with the pope and all the bishops of the world. After WWII, the church had more people, but fewer priests. The language was changed from Latin to vernacular, and the laity assisted the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion and reading some texts from the Bible to the congregation during the liturgy.

When I retired from the U.S. Army, I attended Princeton University ,under the GI bill (thank you USA!). Joan and I were married in the Princeton University Chapel by Father Charles Weiser, who was the chaplain there. We helped in local churches and later moved to Jacksonville, Florida, continuing to counsel and teach in religious education classes under the direction of a deacon.

Joan died in 1999 and was buried in my plot in Arlington National Cemetery Section 59, Grave 104, on our 25th anniversary. Sometime later, I had a heart by-pass and my sister Marion and her husband Jerry became my caretakers for about three weeks in Jacksonville, Florida. In need of additional help, I moved to Texas to be near my family.

I was a member of MOAA in Florida, and joined MOAA,HA Auxiliary. Mary Lee Lanik was the chaplain at that time. Some time later, her husband died, and Lt Col. Glenn Kerr who was President of MOAA,HA, recruited me to take Mary Lee's job upon her resignation.

My sister Marion and her husband Jerry (who had taken such good care of me after my heart surgery in Florida) moved to Sugar Land, and Jerry died a year ago. When he died, I became a caretaker for Marion with the family.

I would like to thank all those who assisted me, but the list would be as long as Major Val Henneberg's list of members. **Thank You Very Much for Your Help and Prayers. May God Bless Y'all** (Texas Talk). (You may reach me by e-mail at unclemike4@yahoo.com.)



ROTC Endowment Fund

The MOAA, HA, and the University of Houston have entered into an Endowment Agreement to support the ROTC cadets who drill at the U of H.

Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine ROTC cadets at all Houston universities (e.g., Houston Baptist, Rice, Texas Southern, Saint Thomas) drill at UH. All funds donated through the Endowment Fund for the Houston Corps of Cadets are fully tax deductible, as MOAA, HA, is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization recognized by the IRS. We hope that you will be interested enough to pledge your support to this worthy undertaking.

This endowment will provide funds for outstanding cadets, selected by the professors of Military Science and Tactics, who want to join the ranks of the United States Armed Forces but find it difficult financially to stay in school.

A form you may use for your tax-deductible contribution or pledge is on page 7.

HURRICANE IKE

Thanks go to the Defense Commissary Agency Temporary Commissary, which provided temporary on-site commissary support in relief of Hurricane Ike for the active duty, guard & reserve, military retirees and their family members. This temporary support began Friday, September 26th at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base and runs through October 10, or until the local communities, logistical infrastructure can maintain support to our military members. Hours of operation are from 0800-1700 daily, seven days per week.

Items offered for sale include limited essential items such as milk, eggs, bread, luncheon meats, cheese, fresh/frozen meats, produce, dry canned goods, ready-to-serve meals, cleaning supplies, and other related items necessary to improve the quality of life to our military family. This initiative is temporary in nature, please remember to bring your military identification card, as only authorized customers will be permitted to enter and shop.

The USO has two mobile canteens and a food van at various locations in the Houston/Galveston area through October 17. Two more units are coming. The USO facilities will serve both military and the community.

Units have been and are scheduled to be at Surfside (Circle Park) and Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, Jamaica Beach Fire Station

and Shore Acres City Hall, Bayou Vista, and Hilton-Kemah on Friday. ALL TIMES ARE 1000-1700. Other locations will be based on need.

THANKS-THANKS-THANKS!

More News About the BX at Ellington ANGB Building 1356

Thanks to Master Sergeant Tommy Green, Retired, for information from his newsletter. (You may contact Tommy at needtawrite@gimail.af.mil or by phone to 281.369.3572.)

The new facility has a larger inventory of electronics, food, and household items. In addition, it has a much larger Class XI section and offers larger household appliances such as washers, dryers, and refrigerators. If they don't have it in stock, they can order it from Fort Sam Houston and arrange to have it delivered to your home. Tires can be bought through arrangements with local stores. Also, they will honor all manufacturers' coupons and match prices! Anything you buy at the BX is tax-free.

Store hours (which may change from time to time based on needs of the base) are:

Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed on Mondays.

For more information you may reach the BX at 281.484.5892.

ELECTION TRIVIA

Write-in Candidate's Platform:

(1) "Press 1 for English" is immediately banned on Day One of my Presidency. English will be the official language of the United States. Speak it or leave.

(2) Effective immediately: NO imports, no exports. When imports are allowed, there will be a 100% import tax.

(3) The border fence will be built, electrified, and ALL National Guard personnel will be required to man the observation towers on the southern border with strict orders *not* to fire on southbound aliens; northbound is fair game.

(4) Social security will immediately return to its original state. If you didn't put anything in, you aren't getting anything out.

(5) Welfare checks will be handed out on Fridays at the end of the 40-hour school week upon the successful completion of urinalysis and a passing grade.

(6) Crime: No more life sentences; if convicted, you will be put to death by the same method you chose for your victim.

(7) One export will be allowed: Wheat. The world needs to eat. A bushel of wheat will now be the exact price of a barrel of oil.

(8) All foreign aid using American taxpayer money will immediately cease, and the saved money will pay off the national debt and lower taxes on all American citizens. Social Security will be beefed up to a level that assures each and every American a comfortable retirement.

(9) When disasters occur around the world, we'll ask the American people if they want to donate to a disaster fund. Each citizen can determine whether or not it's a worthy cause.

(10) The Pledge of Allegiance will be said every day at school and every day in Congress. The National Anthem will be played at all appropriate ceremonies, sporting events, outings, etc.

(11) American companies will not be allowed to outsource jobs. Any company that does so, will be tried for treason, on the grounds that they are weakening the American economy.

—Author Unknown

God Bless America

More About Ike

This little ditty has been floating around the Internet through e-mail messages, and we have been unable to determine the author but thought you might enjoy it:

'Twas The Night Of Ike

'Twas the night of Ike
When all through the state
Not a gas pump was pumping,
Not a store open late.

All the plywood was hung
On the windows with care,
Knowing that a hurricane
Soon would be there.

The children were ready
With flashlights in hand,
While bands from the hurricane
Covered over the land.

And mamma with her
Mag-Lite
And I in my cap
Had just filled the bath tub
For flushing our *&6%.

When out on the lawn
There arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the closet
To see what was the matter.

The trees on the fence
And the neighbor's roof torn
Gave the fear of us dying
In this terrible storm.

With a little wind gust
So lively and quick,
I remembered quite clearly
Our walls weren't brick.

More rapid than eagles
His courses they came,
And he whistled, and wafted
And surged all the same.

Off shingles! Off sidings!
Off rooftops! Off power!
Down trees! Down fences!
Down trailers! Down towers!

In the center of Texas
He continued to maul,
Screaming Blow Away!
Blow Away! Blow Away All!

As wind ripped and tossed
The debris through the sky,
I peeked out the shutters
At cars floating by.

So go to the safe-room
My family did do,
With a portable radio
And batteries too.

And then, in a twinkling
I heard on the set,
The end was not coming
For a few hours yet!

As I calmed down the kids
And was turning around,
Through the window it came,
With a huge crashing sound.

A tree branch it was
All covered in soot,
The wind blew it smack-dab
On top of my foot!

A bundle of twigs
Now lay in a stack,
And my living room looks
Like it was under attack.

The wind—how it howled!
The storm—very scary!
Myself and the family
Were all too unwary.

The dangers of hurricanes
Are serious, you know;
They are taken for granted
As Ike did show.

With the winds dying down
And the danger beneath,
I noticed my tool shed
Was missing its sheath.

So I grabbed my last tarp
And nailed it on down;
Then I got in my car
And I headed to town.

The traffic was awful,
And stores had no ice;
My five-gallon cooler
Would have to suffice.

Generators were scarce,
Not one left in town;
There were trees on the roads
And power lines down.

I looked side to side,
No CenterPoint here
This only resulted
In compounded fear.

And in the midst of
This peculiar scourge,
The awful question of
Another storm emerged!

I sprang to the car
And gave my family a whistle;
Then away we all went,
Like a Tomahawk missile.

You could hear us exclaim
As we drove out of sight
“Farewell to this place,
San Antone seems just right!”



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Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
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My pledge of \$ _____ should be designed to support MOAA,HA Houston Corps of Cadets

My gift will be made with installments of \$ _____ to be paid monthly ___ quarterly ___ annually ___. Beginning date: _____ The Office of Stewardship will send reminders.)

___ Enclosed is a check (made payable to University of Houston) for the first pledge payable.

Please charge my credit card for the amount of my gift, as scheduled above:

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(Please specify company for our records)

Donor signature: _____ date _____

Donor Signature: _____ date _____

*Thank you for your support of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA,
HOUSTON CORPS OF CADETS ROTC ENDOWMENT FUND, THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON*

University of Houston; Advancement Services; P.O. Box 867; Houston TX 77001-0867
Attn: Nancy V. Clark E-mail: uh.edu/giving

From your editor:

Till next time, send me your interesting articles, topics, and suggestions. If you know of someone who would like to place an ad with us, the per-issue prices are \$180 for a full page, \$90 for a half-page, \$50 for a quarter-page ad and \$20 for a business card size.

And just a reminder: Christmas is just around the corner! But no need to tell us “seasoned” citizens how time flies, is there?

Carol Ann Wilson, Editor

Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area

Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for application for membership, renewal, or changes to the current directory of members.

NAME:

Last First Initial Grade Service Branch

NAME OF SPOUSE:

ADDRESS:

E-mail: _____ Dues: Regular Membership: \$10 first year; annual renewal \$20

Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$10

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082
For more information, call Maj. Va. G. Henneberg 713.729.8217



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