

# The Ashley Cooper Companion

## Commander's Corner



*Captain Fred Massey, USN(Ret.)*

For those who were unable to attend our October meeting you missed the awarding of a Silver Patrick Henry medal, medallion and certificate to our treasurer Jerry Arter. The award was long overdue. He has taken good care of our money for many years and each year let us know where we stand in our effort to provide quality patriotic education to our youth. We are financially sound, thanks to the oversight and good stewardship of our finances by Jerry.

I hope that you have received your copy of the Officer Review by now. We have a new CINC who took the national reins of MOWW during the Bozeman, Montana National Convention. CINC Captain Russell C. Vowinkle is a retired Naval Flight Officer with combined active and reserve service. He served in the Vietnam War during active duty (1962-1967) and completed three command tours with the Naval Reserve. His focus will be to assist chapters in their efforts to

## NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

**DATE:** **Wednesday**, November 16th

**PLACE:** U.S. Naval Weapons Station Club

**TIME:** Social Hour 1130, Lunch 1200,  
Speaker 1245.

provide community involvement through ROTC/JROTC awards programs, Youth Leadership Conferences, and to improve communications with chapters through Region Commanders, General Staff Officers and VCINCs. Welcome aboard, CINC Vowinkle.

I know many of us are also members of the Military Officers Association of America. I've sent a letter of appreciation to their local President, BG Ernest D. Brockman for publishing a notice in their newsletter supporting our CWO Lee Broadwell Memorial Fund. This is the fund that supports our Patriotic Education Programs. Many thanks from us to MOAA and its local chapter.

At the National Convention, I set a goal of increasing our membership by a minimum of five new members this year – that's a net gain of five. Bring a friend to our November meeting. I promise to have a program that will inspire. We now have 95 current members (note: we used

to call them "living members"). A net gain of five would bring us back to the 100 member level. Our efforts to bring new life and younger members willing to take the reins in the near future are imperative to the survival of the General Westmoreland Chapter. We do great things for our next generation of leaders with our ROTC/JROTC awards, Youth Leadership Conference, and Massing of the Colors, but these things won't continue without active participation in the order. I need your help!

I've had to make arrangements for our November Luncheon to be held on Wednesday, November 16th due to a conflict with the Red Bank Club. Our normal third Thursday meeting conflicted with their annual Thanksgiving luncheon. No rooms were available because they are expecting a record crowd. I hope each of you will be able to join us. Callers – contact as many as you can.

# ***The Ashley Cooper Companion***

**October 28, 2011**

## **2011 OFFICERS AND STAFF**

Commander	CAPT Fred Massey, USN-Ret	797-5807
Vice Commander	Cpt Charles Gilmer, ANG-Ret	849-0816
Adjutant		
Judge Advocate	CAPT Michael R. Deddish, USN-Ret	762-4813
ROTC	Major John Dunmyer III, USA-Ret	769-5889
Treasurer	LTC Gerald R. Arter, USAF-Ret	797-1555
Chaplain	REV James Parker, Her Mbr	556-9454
Marshall		
Programs	COL H.M.J. Radcliffe, USMC-Ret	722-0043
Membership	Cpt Charles Gilmer, ANG-Ret	849-0816
Hospitality	Mrs. Dorothy Ryan	797-3814
Chairman, Patriotic Ed.	CAPT Watt M. Jordan, USN-Ret	884-4429
Director, YLC	CAPT Fred Massey, USN-Ret	797-5807
Public Relations	COL Ned Adams, USAF-Ret	556-0260
Chmn, Home. Sec. Comm.		
Massing of the Colors	CDR Rudy Matzner, USN-Ret	571-3910
Newsletter	COL Ned Adams, USAF-Ret	556-0260
Hospitality	Mrs. Dorothy Ryan	763-8348
Historian		
Past Chapter Commander	Col Robert Miller, USMC-Ret	881-2951

## ***RADM BESAL TO SPEAK AT MASSING OF THE COLORS***

Rear Admiral Robert Besal, USN (Ret.) has agreed to speak at the 2012 Massing of the Colors, scheduled for the Citadel's Summerall Chapel on Sunday afternoon, 4 March 2012.

RADM Besal had a distinguished 30 year career as a Naval Aviator, including Flag Rank assignments as Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force, and Commander Naval Safety Center. Afloat commands included USS America (CVA 66), and USS Savannah (AOR 4). He commanded carrier-based Attack Squadron 15 while em-

barked in USS John F. Kennedy for Desert Storm/Desert Shield combat operations.

Companion RADM Besal is a regular member of the Military Order of the World Wars and has supported the Patriotic Education Program, serving as a speaker at the Youth Leadership Conference. He is currently Senior Vice President for Program Development at the Lodestar Group. A 1972 graduate of Auburn University, he also graduated from the National Defense University. RADM Besal is a Past President of the Charleston Council, Navy League of

the United States.

Twenty-seven color guards participated in the 2011 Massing of the Colors last March. MOTC Coordinator Rudy Matzner would like to make sure that he invites all eligible Armed Forces, veterans, law enforcement, emergency services, ROTC, JROTC, Scouting and patriotic organizations with color guards. If you know of such an organization not represented in the past, or to suggest additions to the invitation list, please contact the MOTC Coordinator by phone or Email [matznerr@bellsouth.net](mailto:matznerr@bellsouth.net).

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## **SUPPORTING PATRIOTIC EDUCATION**

The MOWW provides an opportunity for all active, retired and former officers of the Armed Forces to unite in a program that promotes good citizenship, youth development, service to the country, strong national security, cultivation of military, naval and air sciences, and preservation of our military heritage. This Chapter supports and conducts an extensive Patriotic Education (PE) program that provides a Youth Leadership Conference; certificates that recognize the achievements of Boy Scouts achieving Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts achieving Gold Award; medals of achievement to ROTC/JROTC cadets; and Massing of the Colors. In order to continue to support these important PE activities this fund was established and requires donations from every Companion and friends of the Order

There were no contributions to the PE funds since the last newsletter:

Celebrate the Marine Corps birthday by making a generous contribution to the Chapter's PE fund. Every contribution to the PE fund is needed, appreciated and will be acknowledged in the newsletters. Please call Watt Jordan (884-4429) or e-mail (wjordan8@bellsouth.net) if

there are any question regarding the PE activities. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

## **OCTOBER PROGRAM ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

Companion Fred Massey conducted the October program on Homeland Security. Some of the activities which should be on our "to-do" list include:

- Recognizing first responders, emergency management personnel, security personnel, and individual citizens who prevent, respond and mitigate the effects of Homeland Security events.
- Participate, support, sponsor and work with local authorities and schools on Security training activities.
- Participate in citizen preparedness and citizen emergency response activities.
- Participate in Homeland Security awareness programs.
- Write letters to newspapers and post on social media concerning Homeland Security issues and threats.

The Chapter needs a Homeland Security Committee Chairmen to lead our efforts in this important area. If interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Chapter Commander Massey

## **COMPANION IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



**COMPANION CHUCK GILMER** is a native of Abbingdon, PA and showed early interest in flying as an Air Scout and member of the Civil Air Patrol. At age 19, he began U.S. Air Force cadet flight training and was commissioned at age 21. His active duty was principally with the Air Defense Command, stationed at Otis Air Force and flying in F-89s. He left the service and joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard while attending Temple University. Chuck remained with the ANG until retirement as a Captain. Graduating with studies in Metallurgy and a BBA, He has spent 46 years working in the field of eye surgery instrumentation with Storz and Crestpoint companies. Although he continues to work, Chuck has found time to serve the MOWW Charleston Chapter as Assistant Adjutant, Membership Chairman, and currently as Vice Commander. In addition to these offices, he has participated actively in all Chapter endeavors.