



Dear Fellow NNOA Members of the Eastern Region,

This is just a quick update on activities and upcoming events in the Eastern Region. Last weekend, we held the Board of Directors meeting and conference planning session. The organization continues to flourish with membership growing and new chapters on the rise. As for the July conference in Portsmouth, planning is in full swing and expect to get official announcements out in April from the Sea Service Chiefs. I have to send a special BZ out to the Tidewater Chapter for all their efforts to make this a truly memorable conference. Highlights from the Board of Directors meeting are below.

Conference Update:

- We have invited each of the Sea Service Chiefs to speak during the conference.
- Registration on the NNOA website will be available not later than 1 April 2008.
- Reserve Rep will look into using two-week reservists to assist with conference.
- Each Regional VP will communicate the procedures for awards submission with their chapters. Chapter size will be determined by the number of active members that are have paid national dues up to date.
- Service Reps project the NNOA Conference service messages to be released on or before 1 April 2008.
- As usual, elections for many positions on the National Board will be held. Now is the time for NNOA members to consider who will lead the organization forward.

Financial Report:

- All financial reports were presented and the organization is fiscally sound.
- The annual report to the IRS was submitted in January.

Regional Reports:

Western

- Camp Pendleton chapter has resumed activation; the 29 Palms chapter is on the way.

Central

- Chapters are engaged in community events: black history, scholarships, etc...
- Met with Congressman Ron Paul regarding possibility of the 2009 NNOA conference being held in Houston
- Currently researching venues for the 2009 conference.

Eastern

- Eastern VP motions to re-establish the Miami Chapter; motion properly second and carried
- Reported on all the great activity from all the chapters in the East.



Service Representatives:

Coast Guard

- Every quarter a communication will be sent out to every Coast Guard minority officer to keep them informed of the assistance available through NNOA.

Navy

- Encourages all Chapters to tell members to update their profiles on the national website as it is the only way for NNOA to ensure that all members are getting the word on activities.

Marine Corps

- Quantico is engaging with Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to increase visibility and awareness of NNOA.

Retiree

- NNOA members must get the word out about scholarships to increase the recruiting efforts
- Retiree mailers have been mailed
- The conference will hold a silent auction to raise money for both local and the organization as a whole.

Membership:

- Membership is currently at 906 active members, 434 life members, and 16 subscribing life members. These are members that are current on the national roster – dues paid up to date.

President's Report:

- CNO released his diversity policy.
- The Navy is considering revision to the requirements for the NROTC program, NNOA has been included to assist with program revisions.

Upcoming Events in the Eastern Region:

TBD

- Miami Chapter establishment and charter presentation ceremony
- New England Chapter Career Day and Mentoring Session with Norwich Free Academy

March

- The Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy's Eclipse Week "Infusion" 31 March - 5 April 2008



April

- Ester Boone Memorial Scholarship Banquet. The DC Chapter of NNOA will hold its annual scholarship banquet at the Washington Navy Yard Catering and Conference Center. Speaker: Ms. Linda Jacobs Washington, Assistant Secretary of Administration, Department of Transportation. Special Guest of Honor: VADM John C. Harvey, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel for his support of the NNOA Mission. Event will be held on 26 April.

May

- Quantico PME with Col George Smith, CO of The Basic School will be held on 7 May
- The Admissions Outreach Conference (AOC), formerly called the Minority Alumni Conference, is planned for May 8-9, 2008 in Annapolis
- The Wesley A. Brown (WAB) Field House Dedication and ribbon cutting will be on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the US Naval Academy
- Quantico Chapter Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet at the Clubs of Quantico is being held 31 May
- Quantico Chapter NASCAR Clean-up Fundraiser will be held May 2 to 4.

June

- National Board of Directors meeting in Quantico 31 May – 1 June
- Quantico Chapter James Farmer Sports Challenge will be held 16 to 20 June

July

- 35th Annual NNOA Professional Development and Training Conference is being held 23 to 25 July 2008 in Portsmouth, VA with a special Coast Guard session and Flag Officer reception on career matters on 22 July.

Bethesda Chapter Update:

The Bethesda Chapter continues to strive toward the goals of the NNOA in their area. Some of the many activities that they have been involved include:

- Mentoring to the young ladies between the ages of 13-17 about women in the Navy
- Annual scholarship drive
- Mentoring session for junior officers
- Membership drive and recruitment efforts
- A host of community activities including reaching out to a local middle school

Concluding remarks:

I am greatly encouraged by all the activity and great work of the NNOA, especially in the Eastern Region. NNOA is having an impact both at the national and local level due to your unselfish dedication and boundless enthusiasm. The leadership of the Sea Services acknowledges that diversity is vital to the success of the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps today and into the future. NNOA is 'on a roll', but we MUST NOT REST! Organizations never stay the same; they are either getting better or getting worse. Our mission to support the Sea Services diversity goals is too important. I implore each of you to challenge yourself and the members in your chapter to get involved by:



- **Recruitment:** Sharing your experiences in the Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Navy with your friends, family, and others in the community so that they might see the benefits of service to country.
- **Retention:** Seeking the officers that need mentoring and career advice in order to help them succeed. Tell others how and why you have decided to stay in the Sea Services...either on active duty or in the reserves.
- **Career Development:** Come to the national conference and receive the gouge from the top officers in the Sea Services. This year's NNOA National Conference will be one NOT TO MISS!