

**Operation Ancestor Search (OAS)
After Action Report (AAR)
NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference
The Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY
March 1-2, 2013**

Part I: Executive Summary

—**Mission/objectives:** To get the word out about the OAS Program and to identify volunteers to assist in opening the OAS program into new military hospitals, poly trauma centers, and VA hospitals. Three individual briefs were given by Julian Clay to the Executive Committee, Membership Committee and the OAS Committee.

—**General description:** Disseminating information about the OAS Program to as many members as possible during Spring Leadership.

—**Dates, locations, and major participants:** NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference, March 1-2, 2013, The Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY. Committee members in attendance were Carl Bedell via Skype, Brock Bierman, and Julian Clay.

—**Significant issues:** We came to the conclusion that if the meeting had been earlier there would have been greater attendance. Julian had the time slot of 2-3:00 pm, 1 March, as that gave the OAS a larger room compared to the 10 seat room originally scheduled.

—**Limitations:** A lost potential to have a captive audience for a group discussion on the vision for OAS expansion.

Part II: Lessons Learned

—**Observation:** Very positive feedback from every member who we came in contact with at the conference.

—**Discussion:** The Information Table and the briefs given was perfect for this conference. Members were very receptive and eager to assist with the program expansion.

—**Lessons learned:** Schedule future meeting for the time range of 10:00 or 11:00 am with a large capacity room as well spreading the word about the meeting to encourage maximum attendance.

—**Recommended action:** Have an OAS Information Table at the SAR Congress 2013 as well as at Fall Leadership 2013. After those two events the program should be well established and then the OAS Committee Meeting will be the main event for members to attend for information and updates on the program. Always schedule an earlier time for the OAS Committee Meeting as well as a 60 or more seating capacity room.

—**Comments:** Overall I believe that we were very successful in getting the word out about the OAS program as well as having members come forward to volunteer to assist in opening the program in to new facilities.

Part III: Additional Comments (OAS Expansion)

- I had several members approach me about OAS expansion and participation. They are as follows:

Bob O'Neal, LtCol, USA (Ret.). He said that he lives approx 15 miles from Ft. Lewis, WA and is very willing to start the outreach with the Madigan Army Medical Center.

Gordon Bell, Major USA (Ret.). Lives in Indiana and was a former Wounded Warrior at Ft. Knox. He was teaching genealogy classes to other wounded warriors while receiving medical treatment himself and is willing to start the inroads for OAS at Ft. Knox.

CDR C.R. Lampman, USN (Ret) and Rev. Dr. Stan De Long. Both live in the San Diego, CA area and are willing to start the program at Balboa Naval Hospital.

Eugene Melvin, President Oregon Society. He is ready to start the program in Oregon.

Dr. Abraham (Rudy) Byrd III. Lives in Tuscan, AZ and is willing to assist with the program at the Tucson and Phoenix, AZ VA Hospitals.

Joseph “Pat” Warner. He is the incoming Maryland President who is very supportive of the program and looking forward to expansion in Maryland.

Rev. Dr. Randy D. Moody. I am checking with him again but I believe he said that he is also willing to assist with starting the program at facilities in Florida. He lives near Ft. Meyers, FL.

Part IV: Additional Comments (General Admin)

Computer Support: Michael C. Wells, Librarian General, recommended that we reach out to Dell and HP to request free computer support for the various OAS locations. I thought this was a great idea and will look into the legal aspect of these requests.

Banquet Attendance: I personally did not see the need for the Project Manager to attend the Friday and Saturday banquets after attending after attending these events. If the other committee members feel it is a good idea then I will attend all social functions in the future in case there are any questions about the program.

Toolkit item for the Volunteers willing to expand OAS in to new facilities: Will send an email to Carl Bedell, Chaplain Taylor and Judge Butler to request their individual approaches in securing a foothold with Walter Reed/Bethesda, Ft Belvoir and Ft Sam Houston. These “Lessons Learned” should assist the volunteers as they approach the new facilities with the OAS Program.

Toolkit Item: Will look to Carl Bedell and Peter Baron for a list of “What to Do” on how to get the word out to the warriors in the facilities as well as how they conduct their training sessions. This will be included in the Toolkit.

USO: Peter Grassl has a daughter who works with the USO and asked if there was a possible relationship with OAS and the USO in the future and if she could help? <http://www.uso.org/>

Lakeshore Foundation: Michael E. Wells from Birmingham, AL lives near this foundation and asked if there was an opportunity for OAS with this organization?
<http://www.lakeshore.org/>

Members Who Attended the Meeting: Those who signed the rooster or who I know attended:

Eugene Melvin, OR

Dave Ashbrook, IL

Julian Clay, KY

Brock Bierman, VA/DC

Carl Bedell, VA/DC via Skype

Chaplain Taylor, TX

Rev Moody, FL

Bob O’Neal, WA

Judge Butler, TX