

**RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION-AFRICA  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2015 to AUGUST 2015**

**CHAIRMAN'S FEEDBACK**

**Outgoing Committee**

As Chairman, Charlie Norris and his successful team consisting of Alan Strachan, Rob Marsh and Len Beechey, have just completed a stint of some three years service to and for RLIRA-Africa. We show our Appreciation for a job well done to each of them.

**Incoming Committee**

With big 'stick boots' to fill the new Committee consists of:

Brian Lewis : Chairman

Rob Marsh: Treasurer

Peter 'Bucks' Theron: Secretary

Len Beechey: CQMS

Like all RLI deployments they have hit the ground running. I would like to make a special mention of Rob Marsh and Len Beechey who have agreed to continue for another stint in their respective roles.

I am very pleased to announce that both Charlie Norris and Alan Strachan have agreed to continue serving on the Committee, and in their respective new roles as :

Charlie Norris: Welfare Coordinator

Alan Strachan: Events Coordinator

We are grateful for the retention of their knowledge and experience and look forward to the value adding roles they will play in serving the members of the RLIRA.

**The Area /Region Representatives**

These posts are as follows:

KZN: Nicholas 'Skippy' Skipworth –Mitchell.

PE and EC: Mark Taunton.

CT: John Norman [John has still to confirm his availability to continue in this post]

GTN: Noel Dent.

We thank **Nicholas Skipworth-Mitchell "Skippy"** for putting his hand up for another stint .He has already put in some seven years as the KZN Representative, and he has an impressive record of service, with notable highlights during his tenure. He has a large contingent of perspective members in KZN and could do with a lot more support from the ouens.

Welcome to **Noel Dent** who was an Officer with 2 Cdo in the late 70's. Noel takes over from Bucks Theron as the Gauteng Representative. We look forward to Noel getting 'stuck in' with upcoming initiatives to raise FUNDS and Attract NEW MEMBERS.

**Mark Taunton** who took over from Pete Gombard and is based in PE, Mark has also hit the ground running. Despite the low numbers of ex RLI Ouens living in and

around PE, Mark has managed to enrol two new members to the Association , namely Mark Snelgar, and Gert Coetzee. Welcome ouens to the RLI RA

**John Norman in CapeTown** the incumbent regional representative has been requested to advise of his status with regard to taking on another stint as the CT Representative and until we hear from him, he remains in the Chair.

We look forward to hearing some positive feedback from the Regions and we request members in all Regions to give their full commitment and support to The Representatives and the RLIRA. The RLIRA Regional Reps are requested to give quarterly feedback on events and activities within their Regions.

## **SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT**

Without the commitment and financial support from our members and our supporters the RLIRA would simply cease to exist and that is **FACT**.

We recognise and thank those members who have given so generously of their time and money in support of the RLIRA to date.

It is heart warming to know that because of you, the members and supporters of the RLIRA, we have been able to assist a number of our less fortunate members over the last year to the tune of some R74 000.

We anticipate that as time passes each year, the need for assistance from the RLIRA will increase.

## **CURRENT PROJECTS**

The New Committee are busy with a number of Projects namely :

- 55<sup>th</sup> Regimental Day Anniversary February 2016.
- Fund Raising (various initiatives to be announced soon).
- Membership drive (All Regions)
- Welfare
- RLIRA Kit Hire for formal RLI Parades. This will include Blazers with RLIRA badge, a beret and tie.
- Additional Merchandise
- Patrons Day (A recent RLIRA Calendar event)
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Regional involvement (Patrons Day, Fund Raising, Membership Drive etc.)
- Fireside Chats-these will take the form of a Friday Night Talk/ Presentation on Topical Military Issues given by an invited guest or guests at Dickie Fritz Shellhole.

## **MEMBERS TALK**

The committee invites RLIRA Members to give feedback on relevant and topical matters. These will be published in our quarterly Newsletter.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Patrons Day is a recent addition to the RLIRA calendar. In July each year the RLIRA Membership and their families /friends are invited to join the Patron in an event at a venue nominated by him, with the aim of raising funds for The RLIRA **Welfare Fund**.

The first Patron's Day will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and will be hosted by the Patron at the MOTH Shellhole "The Last Post" at the Cottesloe Moth Cottages Complex in Fairland Gauteng.

Notification for this event will be sent out by our CEO Bill Wiggill. It is hoped that as many members with their families and friends will join us and our Patron Ian 'Tufty' Bate.

It is anticipated that this event will be held in the various Regions in SA annually, and KZN will be requested to Host this event in July 2016.

## **MERCHANDISE**

Len Beechey as the CQMS continues to do sterling work with the RLI Memorabilia, and through his efforts and your support, has contributed significantly to the Funds.

A communication will be sent out in due course advising members of what Merchandise is held in stock at present. The Committee will continually review the Merchandise thus striving to ensure stock is on hand and that new and interesting items are available to members.

## **DONATIONS**

The Committee require suitable items and or RLI Memorabilia which can be sold, raffled or auctioned for FUND Raising purposes. Please contact any member of the Committee if you have suitable Donations to offer.

## **A LOOK FORWARD**

The RLIRA–Africa Committee will Host **the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RLI REGIMENTAL DAY 2016** on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016, at the Dickie Fritz Shellhole in Johannesburg SA.

The programme for this Milestone event in our History has yet to be finalised and a Communication with full details will be sent in due course:

However it can be confirmed that this day will include:

- A Parade/ Ceremony with The Colours.
- A Buffet Luncheon
- Guest Speaker
- American Auction.

We hope to see a maximum turnout of members, family and supporters for this 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Milestone in our Proud History.

Whilst it is the intention of the RLIRA-Africa Committee to honour RLI Regimental Day every year with a Parade / Ceremony, the next MILESTONE Regimental Day will be held on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021.

## **CONTACT US**

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