



## **RAO NEWSLETTER 8-22**

### **1. RAO CLOSURES: AUG - SEPT 2022**

**MONDAY 29 AUG-- NATIONAL HEROES DAY**

**MONDAY 5 SEPT-- LABOR DAY**

**2. FPO UPDATE:** The latest update indicates that SecDef has rescinded a planned change to the postal orders, and is studying the change, and plans to update users sometime in the future. It appears the Write/Call campaign has had an effect. Now is not the time for us to back off, thinking all is well. We need to continue to press our representatives on what actions they plan on taking to codify our FPO privileges into law, before the elections. Those who fail to respond or do so in a less than desired manner, likely shouldn't be receiving our approval for additional time in office. In addition to the letter we have previously published, there is a petition on line to let your feelings on the subject be known. <https://chng.it/wkKz6Mg6qq>.

**Regardless, of the outcome of the SecDefs decision, we have plan B which will continue to provide for receipt of mail through our P O box service. The only part of that plan yet to be resolved is Tricare Express scripts, but we are working on an alternative to that.**

### **3. REMINDER ON SSA "ARE YOU STILL ALIVE LETTER"**

**SSA form 7162 is being rec'd by many and requires a response within 60 days of mailing date. If you should not comply, they may suspend your payments. It can take 3-4 months getting it going again. Also during the period of suspension you could be disenrolled from Tricare as a result of being disenrolled from Medicare part B. Word to the wise, don't procrastinate, respond as soon as possible.**

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP CY-2023**

**As the New Year fast approaches, we have to consider our financial budget for it. As the result of Covid lockdowns, and losses through deaths in the past 2 years, we have experienced a reduction in membership. A number of folks have not been able to return from the states, and added to that more than 150 who have passed away in that period. also to be considered is the cost of doing business due to higher prices for utilities and transportation of the mail from Manila. In order to stay viable and continue to provide the great service you have become accustomed to, we find we will need to adjust the membership costs. To lighten the blow we will be following a tiered renewal format. Those renewing 1-30 Nov, will pay P4500, Dec 1-31 will be P4700 and 1 Jan onward, P5000. We are cutting costs in every way we can find, but still need to ask for your help, in keeping the doors open and at least a few lights on. We greatly value your friendship and membership and you being a part of the RAO family, and are working hard to continue to deserve them.**

**Please stay safe and healthy!!!!!!!!!!**