



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



April 2022

President's Corner:

Dear Chapter Members: Happy April to all of our wonderful chapter members. And thank you to everyone who attended our brunch on 27 March. It was a highly successful luncheon with 45 members and guests in attendance. Our special guest was Lisa Teachman who regaled us with her life story and provided great information on the changes in weather technology over the years. She even gave us a private 1 week weather forecast which turned out to be very accurate! A special thank you to Sue Bush for arranging for Lisa Teachman's presentation. I also want to thank those members who donated gifts for our raffle and purchased raffle tickets.

We want to welcome some new members who have joined our chapter in the last month. Dick and Susan Norwood and Jack and Shelly Johnson. Both Dick and Jack are Navy veterans. A special thank you to James Mazlowski for inviting the Norwoods and Johnsons to our brunch. Please introduce yourself to them at the next meeting and make them feel welcome.

The leadership committee is working hard to identify our chapter leaders for next year. Please consider serving in a chapter leadership position. Contact Mike George if you feel the calling of leadership.

Our next brunch is Sunday, April 24th. I recommend that you arrive between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM so that you can have time to eat before the program. Our guest speaker has not been established but I am certain that Greg Willingham will produce an informative and entertaining program. The cost is \$22, and I encourage you to write a check due to our shortage of cash for change. Remember that any first time visitor to our chapter brunches who is eligible to join our chapter will receive a free meal along with a spouse. East High School cadets will serve as the Color Guard. See you on the 24th.

Sincerely, John Hughey, LTC, (Ret), USA, President

TROW News and Information

TROW President Sue Bush said there will be a luncheon April 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Candle Club, 6135 E. 13th St. The program will be provided by the Union Rescue Mission. The Slate for officers will also be announced. New officers will be voted on and installed at the May 20 meeting at Crestview Country Club. Callers will contact members for reservations.

Warrior Battalion Team Wichita Conducts Ruck March April 30th

The Warrior Battalion Team Wichita will conduct a Ruck March April 30 at the Sedgwick County Park. Registration for the march will begin at 8 a.m. at the Horseshoe Shelter, and run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is dedicated to the memory of MAJ Brad Webster, a leadership instructor, and U.S. Army service member. According to SSGT Joseph Clay of Team Wichita, the organization's goal is to end veteran suicides by bringing attention to this tragic situation that occurs too often throughout our nation. The march includes a silent auction, raffles, and food throughout the event, said Sergeant Clay. Donations to Warrior Battalion are tax deductible. Learn more at www.WarriorBattalion.org.

Colonel Hester Receives Citizen Activist Award

Long-time Wichita MOAA Chapter member, COL Robert Hester is the recipient of the 2021 Willard Garvey Citizen Activist of the Year Award. He was recognized March 24 at the 68th Annual Awards Dinner hosted by the Wichita Metro Crime Commission. Jeff Geoffroy, President of the WMCC, presented the award which cited COL Hester's for his role in building and overseeing the JROTC Programs throughout Wichita's USD 259 schools. The district has more than 2,500 cadets who are enrolled in a number of the city's high school and junior high programs. JROTC is sponsored by the U.S. Armed Forces and is designed to promote character development and citizenship skills in our young people. COL Hester has been director of the USD 259 program for more than 25 years.

Derby AFJROTC Cadets Participate in Several Metro Area Events.

Col. Michael Dillard, Director of the AFJROTC Program at Derby High School, reported the school's cadets participated in five civic events during the past month. Ten cadets helped collect food for the Derby Food Bank. Five members of the Derby Color Guard presented the Colors at the Boys and Girls State Bowling Championship Tournament. The Color Guard Team also presented Colors at a Wichita Thunder Hockey Game. And the Color Guard posted and retired Colors at the Wichita MOAA Chapter Business meeting at the Rolling Hills Country Club last month.

Bill to Eliminate/Reduce State Food Sales Taxes Gets Momentum

Proposals to eliminate or reduce Kansas Food Sales Taxes are gaining momentum in the State Legislature. Kansas State Senator Marci Francisco believes a compromise has been reached that would "stagger the reduction of the state portion of the food sales tax over three years, taking it to 4% in January 2023; 2% in 2024; and 0% in 2025." The current state food sales tax rate is 6.5%, with city and county taxes on top of the state rate. State legislators are in recess until April 28 and any movement on the proposal would need to be taken up sometime after that. Assuming the bill is approved by the state house/senate, the bill would then have to be sent to Gov. Laura Kelly for her approval.

Other bills under consideration that would affect Kansas Veterans include: (brief synopsis)

Senate Bill 200: Expanding pharmacist scope of practices to include point-of-care testing for and treatment of various infections and other health conditions.

House Bill 2361: Authorizing the Kansas Supreme Court to adopt rules establishing specialty court programs for troubled veterans – allowing them to possibly undergo various programs to expunge certain types of convictions.

House Bill 2476: Allowing for Silver Star and Bronze Star recipients to have distinctive license plates.

House Bill 2239: Addresses several proposed changes dealing with State income taxes and property taxes. One to include additional personal exemptions for veterans who are 100% disabled, and other deductions to include veterans with a less than 100% disability rating.

Chapter Officers for 2021 – 2022

PRESIDENT	LTC John Hughey
1 st VICE PRESIDENT	LTC Greg Willingham
2 nd VICE PRESIDENT	(Presently vacant)
SECRETARY	Maj Earl Shellner
TREASURER	Maj Shellie Harmon
PAST PRESIDENT/LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	Lt Col Michael George
DIRECTOR/McCONNELL AFB LIAISON	Col Michael Dillard
DIRECTOR/SURVIVING SPOUSE COORDINATOR	LTC Roy Yanchesky
DIRECTOR	MAJ Andy Trager