

WICHITA CHAPTER  
**MOAA**  
MILITARY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

DECEMBER 3, 2018

*Christmas*

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

BY LT COL MICHAEL R. GEORGE

DEAR MOAA MEMBERS:

It's that Christmas time of the year, and the beginning of the New Year right after it! It's hard to believe we're here already. A lot has gone on this past year, and as things wind down, each of us can reflect on the good and the not so good of it. For me, it's been my honor and pleasure to be your chapter president for the past 7 months, and I look forward to this coming year and what we will do. I also want to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Last month we had a very informative presentation from Ms. Mary Eary on retiree opportunities and goings on at McConnell AFB. As she pointed out the new FEDVIP dental and eye care programs really must be addressed on an individual basis. The only way to do that is to sit down with a healthcare specialist and determine what's best for you. Please keep in mind that the FEDVIP Open Season for 2018 ends Dec. 12, with coverage starting on 1 Jan 2019. **AS ALWAYS, YOUR INPUT IS WELCOME ANYTIME. EMAIL ALL CONCERNS TO ME M2GEORGE55@GMAIL.COM. ALSO, PLEASE SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING MO@@ MEETINGS:** 20 Jan, 17 Feb, 17 Mar, 14 Apr and, 19 May.

***TROW'S DECEMBER BRUNCH***

THE NEXT LUNCHEON WILL BE DEC. 21, 10:30 A.M., AT THE WICHITA COUNTRY CLUB. THE PROGRAM WILL FEATURE HOLIDAY MUSIC PRESENTED BY STUDENTS FROM KAPAUN HIGH SCHOOL.

***NEW MEMBER***

THE CHAPTER WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBER, LT COL (RET) THOMAS ZACHARY, USMC, AND HIS WIFE, CAROL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CHAPTER.

**C**arols and candles aglow in the night,  
**H**earth fires blazing all cozy and bright,  
**R**ed-leaved poinsettia, white Christmas rose,  
**I**ce skaters whirling on ice as it snows,  
**S**leigh bells and Santa,  
**T**insel-trimmed trees,  
**M**istletoe magic and warm memories,  
**A**ngels all bringing glad tidings anew,  
**S**easons' best wishes for you!

***MO@@ BRUNCH PROGRAM***

OUR DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER MEETING WILL FEATURE THE STRING ENSEMBLE FROM NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL. THE GROUP IS DIRECTED BY KATHLEEN HOUSE WHO WILL LEAD THEM IN A PROGRAM OF HOLIDAY MUSIC. THE BUFFET BEGINS AT 11:30 A.M., AND THE MO@@ MEETING STARTS AT 12:45 P.M. BE SURE TO GIVE YOUR RESERVATIONS TO LT COL MICHAEL GEORGE BEFORE DEC. 7. HE CAN BE REACHED AT [M2GEORGE55@GMAIL.COM](mailto:M2GEORGE55@GMAIL.COM). OR CALL, 316-214-3461.

***PLEASE PAY YOUR CHAPTER DUES***

DUES FOR 2019 ARE DUE. OUR TREASURER, MAJ SHELLIE HARMON, REMINDS US THAT THE COST IS \$30 FOR ONE YEAR; \$55 FOR TWO YEARS, AND \$80 FOR THREE YEARS. SO FAR 26 MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE DEAL WHICH LOWERS THE COST OF A 2-YEAR MEMBERSHIP BY \$5, AND A SAVINGS OF \$10 ON THE 3-YEAR PROGRAM.

***UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS***

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### Botanica Illuminations

Botanica, 701 Amidon St., Wichita  
See the spectacular family-friendly, light display that has become an annual tradition. [Botanica's Illuminations](#) also includes live music, hot beverages, and plenty of other holiday fun. The fun goes through December 31, 2018. (Closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.)

### Let it Snow at the Dome

Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd., Wichita.  
This fun family show, which began Nov. 24, in the [Dome theater at Exploration Place](#), will put you in the seasonal mood with holiday images and scenes set to favorite songs. No museum admission needed to do the Dome. Dome-only fees are \$3 for kids ages 3 to 11, \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors 65 and older.

### Kansas in Miniature Holiday Show

Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd., Wichita  
November 24 to December 31  
See the popular "Kansas in Miniature" display – an elaborate, animated miniature of a 1950s Kansas town – decked out with the sights and sounds of the holiday season – complete with a Christmas parade and nostalgic music. The display is included with Exploration Place admission; free for members.

### Fulton Valley Farms A Country Christmas

Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the holiday season, enjoy the lights and visit with Santa and his reindeer on the farm in rural Kansas. [A Country Christmas at Fulton Valley Farm](#) is only \$5 per person.

### North Pole Substation

[Visit with Santa](#), Mrs. Claus, and the elves at the North Pole sub-station in Wichita. Decked out with a festive [Christmas light display](#) and run by

the non-profit organization [Claus, Inc.](#), the North Pole Substation is at 1841 S. Glenn in Wichita.

### The Arc's Lights

2919 W. 2nd St. in Wichita, approach from Douglas and St. Paul St.  
Drive through a tunnel of lights and over a million other lights on your drive through this all-volunteer [Christmas light display](#). The Arc's Lights are on nightly during the holiday season November 22 through December 28, 2018, with a requested \$10 donation per carload on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. (Or you can pick up \$8 tickets at QT.)

### ***ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MO@@ NATIONAL***

**TAX CODE CHANGES: THE TAX CODE FOR 2017 ALLOWED THOSE MARRIED FILING JOINTLY TO TAKE A STANDARD DEDUCTION OF \$12,700. FOR SINGLE PAYERS, THE AMOUNT WAS \$6,350, AND FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, \$9,350. FOR 2018 THE STANDARD DEDUCTION FOR MFJ IS \$24,000, \$12,000 FOR SINGLE, AND \$18,000 HOH. THIS MEANS THAT FOR MANY TAXPAYERS THE STANDARD DEDUCTION WILL BE LARGER THAN THE AMOUNT THEY CAN CLAIM IF THEY ITEMIZE.**

**BUT YOU SHOULD TAKE A DEEPER LOOK. IF YOUR STATE HAS AN INCOME TAX, IT MIGHT NOT BE SO SIMPLE. MOST STATES PULL A NUMBER FROM SOME POINT ON THE FEDERAL TAX RETURN. MANY USE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME, AND THOSE THAT DO NORMALLY ALLOW YOU TO ITEMIZE OR TAKE A STATE STANDARD DEDUCTION. IN MANY CASES, IF YOU TAKE THE STANDARD DEDUCTION ON YOUR FEDERAL RETURN, YOU MUST TAKE THE STANDARD DEDUCTION ON YOUR STATE RETURN. TO BE SURE YOU GET THE BEST DEDUCTION, YOU MAY NEED TO CALCULATE YOUR RETURN USING BOTH THE STANDARD, AND ITEMIZED METHODS.**

***FREE TS@ PRECHECK FOR SOME TRAVELERS***

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CURRENTLY SERVING MILITARY MEMBERS AND DOD CIVILIANS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PRECHECK PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO JIM ABSHER, WHO WRITES FOR MILITARY.COM, THE TSA IS REMINDING PEOPLE IN THOSE CATEGORIES THAT THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO USE THE TSA PRECHECK PROGRAM AND SKIP SOME OF THE HASSLE WHEN GOING THROUGH AIRPORT SECURITY. SERVICE MEMBERS AND STUDENTS AT THE ARMED FORCE'S SERVICE ACADEMIES ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES MUST OPT INTO THE PROGRAM USING THE MILCONNECT WEBSITE. FOR THE PUBLIC TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM, THE COST IS \$85 FOR FIVE YEARS.

***RESPONDING TO CHAPTER SURVEYS***

LT COL MICHAEL GEORGE HAS BEEN USING SURVEY MONKEY TO GET CHAPTER MEMBERS' OPINIONS ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES. SO FAR 36 MEMBERS HAVE RESPONDED TO HIS EMAILS. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A GOOD START, IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER IF EACH MEMBER WOULD GIVE THEIR FEEDBACK TO IMPORTANT ISSUES OR CHANGES BEING PROPOSED FOR THE CHAPTER. FOR INSTANCE, ONE QUESTION DEALT WITH SUPPORTING/NOT SUPPORTING THE JROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. MEMBERSHIP OVERWHELMING VOTED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT SERVICE TO OUR JROTC COMMUNITY. THIS GIVES OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT THE MOMENTUM TO PURSUE SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM. BUT THE SURVEYS ARE ALSO USED TO GATHER INPUTS ON MANY MORE SUBJECTS, SUCH AS DOING SPECIAL CHAPTER FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO LET YOUR OPINIONS BE KNOWN BY RESPONDING TO THE SURVEYS.