



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



February 2021

President's Corner

I want all of our chapter members to know how excited I am for the future of our chapter. I am optimistic that we will quickly return to some level of normalcy due to the distribution of COVID vaccines and the fact that many Americans have already contracted COVID and are theoretically immune from the virus. Children are now returning to school, albeit on a somewhat limited basis, and attendance at our monthly meetings is starting to rise.

Our 24 January meeting at Rolling Hills Country Club had 25 attendees (up from 18 in November). Our 1st Vice President, Greg Willingham, arranged to have West High School JROTC cadets present a briefing on the D-Day Honor Platoon trip that they are planning for this summer. The presentation was very interesting and informative. They are seeking donations for their trip. If you are interested in sponsoring these cadets so that they can represent Wichita at the annual D-Day ceremonies in Normandy, please contact Greg Willingham at gwillingham@usd259.net.

I want to express appreciation to our newest member, James Oswald, for his hard work in inviting prospective members to our meetings. James brought three guests to our January meeting. One of those guests was the son of an existing member, Louis Barr, who also attended. I had not seen Louis for a while, and it was great seeing him.

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and we all must use this occasion to communicate our love and admiration for spouses, family members, and friends who we hold dear. I encourage you to send a Valentine's Day card to those who you especially care for. Given our circumstances, a card would lift the spirits of those who feel so isolated right now. I also want to mention one of our oldest and dearest members, Jay McLeod, who is turning 100 years old on March 11th. I will be buying a birthday card and bringing it to the next brunch for everyone to sign. If you want to send a personal card to him, please contact me and I will give you his address. I was also informed that one of our surviving spouse members, Helen Fanning, passed away in December. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Our next brunch is Sunday, 21 February at Rolling Hills Country Club. I hope to see everyone there. The Wichita School District's JROTC Cadet Corps staff will be presenting a briefing on this unique year in JROTC and their plans for the future.

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

It's Time to Pay Dues to Maintain Chapter Membership

Chapter Treasurer, Maj. Shellie Harmon, says to look for an email letting you know if you have prepaid the 2021 dues, or if it is time to renew. Chapter dues are \$30 for one year; \$55 for two years, and \$80 for three years. Auxiliary members pay \$15 per year. If you did not get a notice, or have any questions, email Major Harmon at sharmon@usd259.net. Please continue to support your chapter.

TROW Meetings are Suspended for the Time Being

Karen Wohlwend, TROW President, said there will be no meetings for the time being. She will let members know when they resume.

Wichita JROTC Conducts Honorary Cadet Boards

Two JROTC Honorary Cadet Boards were conducted during January. Rylan Costello of Jardine Middle School was named the 7th Grade Leadership Honorary Cadet Board winner. And Cadets Carlos Gardea and Luis Urbina were named co-winners of the JROTC Honorary Cadet Board. Members of the 7th Grade Selection Board were Dr. Tiffinie Irving, past Deputy Superintendent of USD 259; Ms. Christy O'Toole, Ex-Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Corps Commander C/Col Peter Porcaro and COL Robert Hester. Other cadets considered for the title were Brooklynne Beatty and Miguel Flores of Hamilton MS; Alexis Mapes, Pleasant Valley MS; T.J. Manuel of Marshall MS; and Jose Sanchez-Rodriguez of Mead MS. Recorder for the Board was Corps Command Sergeant Major Victoria Brown. Corps Deputy Commander Jonathan Turner helped with the cadets throughout the proceedings by providing encouragement and preparing them for the board. Cadets were evaluated based on their overall performance before the board, in the leadership program, and for their schoolwork. They were asked questions on citizenship, leadership, current events, customs and courtesies, and team drill.

Those considered for the JROTC Honorary Board were Aileen Hernandez of North HS; Brian Rorabaugh of Northeast Magnet, Juliene Prospa of South HS, and Caiden Ashley of Southeast HS. Those on the selection board were 1st LT. Aaliyah Graham, SFC Matt Weller, SSG Jose Sifuentes and COL Robert Hester.

Derby HS Cadets Help Dedicate the New American Legion Post

Last month four members of the Derby AFJROTC Color Guard presented the Colors and Participated in the American Legion Post #408 Flagpole Dedication Ceremony. The Post moved into their New building and celebrated with the dedication and Open House.

Jay McCleod Will Celebrate His 100th Birthday Next Month

CDR Jay McCleod 100th birthday will be March 11th. He is a long-time member of the Wichita Chapter. His daughter says he loves participating in the chapter luncheon meetings. Jay is a veteran of WWII and gave a splendid presentation to the chapter a few years ago about one of the naval battles he fought in while stationed in the South Pacific

during the war. His daughter, Kathy, hopes chapter members will recognize his milestone birthday by sending a card or note. His address is 7373 E. 29th St. N., Apt. W 208, Wichita, KS 67226.

Some of National MOAA's Priorities for 2021

MOAA's new chairman, Gen Walter L. Sharp, USA (Ret), recently highlighted several of the organization's priorities for the year. He wants to expand the scope of MOAA's charities; increase membership; innovate chapters and councils and focus on diversity of members which allows broader diversity of thought and ideas in the organization. Some of MOAA's priorities for the new Congress, which was sworn in January, include:

1. Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
2. Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.
3. Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
4. Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an option for those currently eligible to receive full military honors, through expansion of our national cemetery.
5. Sustain pay raises for servicemembers and COLA raises for retirees and improve survivor benefits.
6. Ensure the Coast Guard receives pay during government shutdowns.

Slate of Chapter Officers for 2020 – 2021

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