



# Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



President's Corner

February 2022

Dear Chapter Members: Winter is finally here. I have been off from school for three straight days due to snow, ice, and cold temperatures. Teachers sometimes complain about their challenges, but days like this remind me that teachers get a lot of time off. I pulled my newly repaired snow blower out of the garage and blew the snow off of my driveway for the first time in eight years. I am still trying to convince myself that the \$399 I spent on the snowblower was worth it. With the wind blowing, I think most of the snow ended up coated on my parka and stocking cap. After returning to the warmth of my house, I scanned my back yard and noticed some of my new winter socks laying on the snow. My new puppy had stolen my socks, exited the doggie door, and was sending me a clear message about leaving him in the house alone. I am sure all of you have similar stories about the winter storm and I trust that all of you are safe and warm.

Our meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> was tremendous. We had about 45 persons in attendance and heard great presentations by the Wichita and Derby cadet leaders. Their stories about their JROTC experiences and future plans were inspirational. And we enjoyed great food. Due to the meeting being held on the last Sunday of the month, we enjoyed a full buffet. And I have great news for the future. We will now be holding our meetings on the last Sunday of the month so that we can enjoy that great buffet every month. Consequently, our February meeting is now scheduled for Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. So, if you have been staying away due to your dissatisfaction with the breakfast buffet, you can now return to the fold.

We are looking for new chapter leaders. My two-year tenure as President is ending in May. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Greg Willingham, will be assuming the position of President. We need volunteers to serve as First Vice President and Second Vice President. The First Vice President is in charge of the program and raffle. The Second Vice President is in charge of recruiting. If you feel moved to serve in these roles, please contact me.

Again, the next brunch is Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 is David Kennedy who is the VFW's State Assistant Service Officer at the Dole VA Center. The cost is \$22.00, 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 his or her meal for free along with a spouse. See you on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

## **Guest Speaker for the February Chapter Luncheon**

David Kennedy, the VFW's State Assistant Service Officer for the Department of Kansas, will be our guest speaker for the Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> luncheon at Rolling Hills Country Club. Mr. Kennedy has been working for the VFW at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita since 2014. He works primarily in helping eligible veterans receive their VA benefits. He also helps eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury of disease receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The DIC is a tax-free monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors. Mr. Kennedy served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1972 – 1975. He also served full-time in the Kansas Army National Guard from 1984 – 2013. During that period, he served as a Recruiter, Readiness NCO, First Sergeant and Operations NCO. He served two overseas deployments – one in Germany and the other in Iraq.

## **TROW News and Information**

TROW President Sue Bush said there will be a luncheon February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Scotch & Sirloin, 525 E. Kellogg, Beginning at 11:30 a.m. Linda Phillips will provide musical entertainment for the event. Sue also said TROW's callers will be contacting members for reservations and menu options.

## **End of Life Documents**

***By LTC Roy Yanchesky, Chapter Surviving Spouse Coordinator***

Most people would list among end-of-life documents a will, a trust, an advance directive, a DNR (do not resuscitate) order, and a durable power of attorney. But the list of documents that deal with end-of-life issues is much longer. Deeds to real property, beneficiary declaration for life insurance, and the signature card to a bank account are all end-of-life documents. They determine who gets what and through which legal procedure when someone dies.

Fortunately, checklists to help create an end-of-life plan are available through a number of trustworthy organizations. Among them:

- MOAA's [Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead](#)
- VA's [Planning Your Legacy](#)
- Military.com's [Military Retiree Survivor Checklist](#)
- State Bar Association articles and forms

Research these resources, pick a checklist, or create one of your own. Gather legal documents you already have, including will, trust documents, health care directives, powers of attorney, beneficiary designations, asset inventory, deeds, military papers, instructions to access digital accounts, and contact information for family.

Consult professionals — lawyer, accountant, insurance agent, financial advisor — to help put together the plan, and then review, update, redraft, and re-execute documents, lists, and paperwork when needed.

At least once a year, review and update the plan. Have circumstances changed? Do the documents do what they are intended to do? Have state or federal laws affecting any of these documents changed? Are lists of assets current? Are titles to real estate, bank accounts, and vehicles, correct? Are beneficiary designations still good?

Discuss your plan with those who hold health care proxy, powers of attorney, and other authority over your person and property. Put documents in a safe place, yet where they can be accessed by those in whom you have placed trust.

Be proactive. End-of-life documents are in reality life's documents. Deal with them now.

## **Wichita JROTC Cadets Visit Representatives at the State Capitol**

COL. Robert Hester, Director of JROTC for USD 259, reported that 49 Wichita cadets participated in a very productive trip to the State Capitol in Topeka. He said "when we arrived the cadets were warmly greeted by Governor Laura Kelly and State Treasurer Lynn Rogers." The cadets also had their picture taken with the Governor. The cadets also took a trip to the Kansas History Museum where they had a guided tour. Back at the Capitol, Rep. Susan Estes briefed the cadets on how the Kansas government works and how laws are passed

Accompanying the group was the newly elected BOE member Diane Albert, a former Wichita cadet, who spoke to the cadets about what she learned while in the JROTC and how it helped her to be successful. COL. Hester also stated that cadets Jesse Bartlett and Carol Lara also talked to the cadets about their experiences in JROTC and Leadership programs. The COL Hester said that cadets Bartlett and Lara presented exceptional briefings on Wichita's JROTC and Leadership programs to the Senate Education Committee. Following their presentations, they answered a number of questions from the committee members who commended the cadets for the information about their experiences. Hester expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr. Sean Miller, Capitol Strategies, and his team, and to Terrell Davis for their help in organizing the visit.

## **Honorary Cadet Selected by the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Leadership Cadet Board**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Leadership Cadet Board was held Jan. 27 and Victoria Barnes of Marshall MS was named the Honorary Cadet. Other cadets competing for the title were Emmy Nelson of Curtis MS, Emerald Garcia from PVMS, Trinity Slater, Hadley, Yulissa Meraz Alfaro, Mead, Jaylon Tkatch, Wells, Kyra Kriner, Hamilton. Members of the Board were Mr. Keith Reynolds, Ms. Melissa Moore, Corps Commander C/Col Jesse Bartlett and COL Robert Hester. Recorder was PFC Victoria Brown, previous Command Sergeant Major. Several parents also attended and listened to their cadet's presentations. The cadets were evaluated by the board based on Citizenship, Leadership, Current Events, Customs and Courtesies and team drill.

In other JROTC news, the Honorary Cadet Board was conducted Jan. 25. Members of the Board were CPT Ayers, SSG Henderson, SGT Guerra and COL Hester. Recorder was

Cadet Corps Commander Jesse Bartlett. Co-winners of the competition were Coilin Baross of East HS, and Creag Kamerick of Northwest. Others going before the Board were Houston Cornwell, Northeast Magnet; Taylor Reida, West HS; Ka'lon Kirk, South HS, and Adeline King of Southeast.

COL Hester also noted that LTC Nathan Lewis, a former JROTC cadet at North High School returned to the school and was promoted to Colonel. He attended college and was commissioned through the ROTC program and became an active duty officer. He wanted to return to North because "that is where it all began for COL Nathan Lewis", COL Hester said.

**Chapter Officers for 2021 – 2022**

PRESIDENT	LTC John Hughey
1 <sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	LTC Greg Willingham
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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