



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



January 2022

President's Corner

Dear Members, Spouses and Families of the Wichita Chapter of MOAA, Welcome to 2022!

I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year. When I enter a new year, many things come to my mind. Some good, some bad. Let me start with the bad first. January and February are the coldest months of the year. While I prefer cold weather to hot weather, cold weather does present its challenges. Biting wind, slick sidewalks, icy roads, and car troubles are ever present risks. My mind also turns to taxes. We start receiving our W-2s, 1099s, and other assorted tax documents that spell doom and gloom for those of us who always end up paying in April. For some of us, tax season means a tax refund check. While we all know that it is our money anyway, it is still nice to get a check. Now let's move to the good of the New Year. The New Year allows us to make renewed commitments to certain goals. For some of us, this may mean a resolution to lose weight or get into shape. Television and radio are full of advertisements selling gym memberships and weight equipment. For some of us, we resolve to be a better spouse, a better parent, or to stitch up frayed relationships with family and friends. In the spiritual realm, some of us resolve to recommit ourselves to God and to attend church more faithfully. Perhaps a new commitment to charity will be your hope. All of these resolutions, if executed, have the power to restore peace and joy in our lives. I pray that 2022 will be a year of fulfilled resolutions in your life.

The 12 December brunch was very enjoyable. About 40 people were in attendance. We participated in several activities. First, Greg Willingham led all of us in some Christmas themed games complete with prizes. Then, Joe Clay, a middle school leadership instructor, made a presentation concerning the Wounded Warrior ruck march coming up in the Spring. We will provide more information to you on the ruck march so that you can have an opportunity to participate. We ended the festivities with our popular gift raffle. Thank you to all members who donated gifts and bought raffle tickets.

As I am writing this letter, I have learned of the passing of Jay McLeod, a long-time member of the Wichita chapter. Jay was 100 years old when he passed. Please join me in a prayer for Jay and his family. He will be missed. I will provide more details concerning Jay at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is Sunday, 30 January. The Wichita Corps of Cadets and Derby JROTC leadership will be presenting. They will also serve as our Color Guard. I encourage all of

you to attend this meeting. These cadets represent our nation's future leadership, and I am certain that you will receive a blessing from their presentations. The buffet is \$22 (full buffet) which includes 1 raffle ticket. Further raffle tickets are \$5 for 6 tickets. Please pay with a check due to a shortage of cash for change. You should plan to arrive between 1100 and 1130 in order for you to have time to eat before the program starts at 1215. If you would like to donate a gift for the raffle, it would be appreciated. And please invite anyone who is an active duty, retired, or former officer in the armed forces. As prospective members, the chapter will pay for their meals to include a spouse. See you on the 30th.

Sincerely,

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

MOAA Dues for 2022

Each member should have received a notice from our Treasurer, Maj. Shellie Harmon, indicating you have already paid the 2022 dues, or you need to pay them. If the latter is the case, please send your payment to: Wichita MOAA, P.O. Box 780292, Wichita, KS 67278-0292. Dues for one year are \$30; two years - \$55; and 3 years -- \$80. If you have questions, please call Shellie at 316-214-6511. Thanks for supporting your chapter.

TROW News and Information

TROW President Sue Bush said there will not be a luncheon this month due to concerns about the current Covid outbreak. She also said that if the virus slows down in February, plans call for a luncheon Feb. 18, beginning at 11:30 at the Scotch and Sirloin. Members will be receiving more information from their callers.

Wichita Corps of Cadets and Derby High School Leadership Named

Col. Robert Hester reported the Wichita Corps of Cadets are Cadet Col. Jesse Bartlett, Cadet LTC Nicole Damari, and Cadet CSM Alyssa Unruh. Col. Michael Dillard, AFJROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor said Derby Leadership representatives are Corps Commander, Cadet Col. Jennifer Chhim, Dep. Corps Commander, Cadet Lt.Col. Katelynn Chhim and Operations Squadron Commander, Cadet Lt. Alexis Stanton. All are scheduled to present at the Jan. 30th MOAA luncheon.

MOAA National Highlights Priorities for Congress During 2022

As the second session of the 117th Congress comes to order, MOAA National has a full slate of objectives to present to them. Here is a summary of those initiatives:

- Sustain pay raises and adequate housing assistances for the troops, and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.

- Protect the military health system (MHS) pharmacy benefit and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our service-members.

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.

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 Yenchesky
DIRECTOR	MAJ Andy Trager