



Wichita Chapter News



January 17, 2023

Dear MOAA Members,

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2023. I sincerely hope you had a very Merry Christmas and are having a great start for the New Year. At least our government is now back online with the election of the Speaker of the House. Now we'll see if a divided Congress and Democrat President can agree on anything over the next two years. Along those lines, there's already talk of reducing the 2024 DoD budget, while MOAA National is forecasting a possible 5.2% pay raise for the same timeframe. I have a feeling it's going to be difficult to keep track of all the changes to be proposed and what is finally agreed to. At least one thing to come to pass this year is the full elimination of the SBP-DIC offset on 1 Feb 2023. Speaking of SBP, DFAS announced that there is an SBP Open Season from 23 Dec 2022 to 1 Jan 2024. Not all the details are available yet but should be coming soon. Look at the details we know of, further on in the newsletter. There is also information about changes to the TRICARE Pharmacy system. You can find more information further on in the newsletter and on the MOAA National website. In addition, you can find MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the new Congress. We'll be keeping track of those and have more information in future newsletters. If you are interested in getting more detailed information and want to contact your congressman about these issues, you can join the MOAA Advocacy Network at https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/. We'll go over this at the brunch on 29 Jan.

As for our chapter in 2022, we lost four of our longtime members: George Miklos, John Halladay, Charles Mansfield and Louis Barr. God Bless and keep them. We also added several new or transfer members to our chapter in 2022. Welcome Dustin Nicholas, Jack Johnson, Robert Lochner and Christopher Shaner. If you are new to the chapter and not listed here, please let me know, our records are probably not up to date. I also want to thank RADM Jim Maslowski for bringing Col (Ret) Wayne and Paula Hott to our brunch in December. We look forward to having them join the chapter. We are also in the process of entering our former Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse members as Regular Members. As noted in previous newsletters, under the new MOAA National guidelines, surviving spouses are eligible for regular membership and can hold offices in the chapter. As a reminder, if the deceased member was a MOAA Lifetime Member, that membership transfers to the surviving spouse. As of now, current spouses cannot be regular members; however, they can hold a chapter office and be listed as such in the MOAA national roster. A final comment for the chapter, please save the brunch date for 26 Mar and plan to attend. We will have a special guest speaker for our meeting, Ms Virginia "Gail" Joyce, MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs Committee, Membership Committee, Scholarship Fund Board of Directors, and MOAA Foundation Board of Directors. Her visit is part of MOAA Nationals effort to have a Headquarters Representative visit each chapter every 2-3 years.

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In closing, I want to thank everyone who attended the December brunch for their participation and generosity in buying door prize drawing tickets, bidding on our silent auction items, and contributing to the stipend for the Derby HS Madrigals. The Madrigals gave a great seasonal performance and helped put everyone in the Christmas spirit. The end result was we collected almost \$600 from the door prize tickets and silent auction items. This is enough to fund the WSU/ROTC commissioning gifts we plan to present to the graduates/commissionees in May 23. In addition, I want to thank Sue Tanner, Paul Inman and Earl Shellner for their supplemental donation to the Derby Madrigals. With their contributions and \$200 from the chapter, we were able to give the madrigals \$500 to help them give their performances. These things most epitomize MOAA's logo of Never Stop Serving.

Finally, please save the date for the 26 February 2023 Chapter meeting. Our speaker will be Trevor Macy, Crime Stoppers Coordinator with the Wichita Police Department. He will be talking to the kinds of crime we see in Wichita and Sedgwick County and what is being done to combat it.

As always, your input is always welcome. Email all concerns to me m2george55@gmail.com or you can text/call me at 316-214-3461. Please save **the dates for upcoming MOAA Meetings:** 29 Jan, 26 Feb, 26 Mar, 30 Apr, and 28 May.

Sincerely,
Michael R. George, President

Top Wichita/Derby Cadets Headline the January Brunch

Six JROTC students will make presentation at the January 29 meeting at Rolling Hills Country Club. COL Robert Hester, Director, JROTC & Leadership Instruction for USD 259, gave glowing reviews of the Wichita leaders: Cadet/Col. **Carol Lara**, East High School is the JROTC Corps Commander. She recently enlisted in the Army National Guard. She started as a 6th grader in the Leadership Program at Mead Middle School. She has been selected as an Honorary Cadet, member of the Raider Team, drill team commander, and member of the varsity Color Guard. She made a presentation to the Kansas Senate Education Committee, and has served in many community service activities. Cadet/LtCol **Jacob Berry**, Heights, H. S., is the JROTC Deputy Corps Commander. He is an Eagle Scout, in the top 10% of students at Heights, and participates in wrestling, track and field, choir, and orchestra, and has been an excellent leader throughout the JROTC program. Cadet/Command Sergeant Major **Jordan Wiltsey**, Northwest H. S, started his service in Leadership at Truesdell Middle School. At Northwest he is on the Drill team and Color Guard, National Honor Society and Madrigals. He also plays on the varsity basketball team and is a member of the Cheer and Dance teams.

Col. Michael Dillard, AFJROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at Derby H.S. was delighted to announce his top student cadets. Cadet/COL **Katelynn Chhim** is the Wing (Corps) Commander. She is a member of the National Honor Society; Drill Team Commander; a member of the Armed Drill and Varsity Color Guard and Saber Team; Leader of the Cyber Patriot Team and holds the Corps Community Service record with over 750 Community Service Hours. Cadet/Lt.COL **Alexis Stanton** is the Wing Vice (Corps) Commander. She is a member of the National Honor Society. He has also

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Received nominations to the Air Force Academy and the Naval Academy. He is a member of the Swim Team; the Philharmonic Orchestra; a lifeguard and water safety instructor and the Color Guard. Cadet Chief Master Sergeant **Noah Gray** is the Command Chief (Corps Sergeant Major). He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Color Guard, The Cyber Patriot Team, and the school Debate Team. All of the cadets will make short presentations of how JROTC programs have impacted their lives. It is advised to arrive at 11 a.m. to check in for the luncheon and business meeting.

TROW Hosts Their January Friendship Luncheon

The Retired Officer's Wives Club will be meeting at the Mediterranean Grill at 11:30 a.m., on Jan. 20th for their Friendship Luncheon. President Sue Tanner says everyone will order what they want from the menu. Callers are contacting members to get a count for the seating. Sue also said that all spouses of retired military officers are invited to attend. Donations were taken for the Airman's Readiness Center to contribute to their Layette program. If you were unable to attend or forgot to bring your donation, feel free to bring it to the luncheon and give it to Anne Tibbetts.

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for 2023

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
- Military Housing [Increased BAH and improved government provided quarters]
- Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees [Reverse cuts to the pharmacy benefit and access to medical treatment facilities]
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans [Monitor enactment of the PACT Act and improved care through the VA]
- Service Families [Improved support for spouse employment, basic needs allowance and accessible, affordable childcare]
- Survivors [Repeal recoupment of last month's paycheck after retirees passing, continue to improve SGLI/VGLI to match inflation, and improve DIC baseline]
- Guard and Reserve [TRICARE coverage for reserve component, overcome delayed pay when promoted or retired, and support for policy solutions to support the total force]

These are MOAA's priorities to present to the 118th Congress in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. MOAA needs our help to keep momentum for these priorities and more. To stay connected, ensure you are signed up for the MOAA Newsletter and register as an advocate at the MOAA Legislative Action Center. For more information, go to <https://www.moaa.org/moaas-legislative-priorities>.

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Know Your TRICARE Plan's Catastrophic Cap

The TRICARE catastrophic cap is an important part of your health care coverage to understand, said Debra Fisher, TRICARE Health Plan policy and programs analyst at the Defense Health Agency. "The catastrophic cap helps protect you because it limits your annual out-of-pocket costs for TRICARE covered services, she said. The cap resets every year on Jan. 1. Your catastrophic cap depends on your sponsor's status and beneficiary group. The first thing to understand is what group you're in: **Group A**: is the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment before Jan. 1, 2018. **Group B** is the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment is on or after Jan.1, 2018.

To get more information, use the TRICARE Compare Costs Tool and read the TRICARE Costs and Fees Fact Sheet. If you would like the latest TRICARE news sent to you by email, visit the TRICARE Subscriptions page and create your personalized profile to get benefit updates, news and more.

Hidden Costs of the TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts

(By MOAA Staff) With about 13,000 community pharmacies removed from the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy network, and thousands more leaving after the departure of a nationwide grocery chain, about 400,000 beneficiaries must find a new location to fill their prescriptions if they want to receive the full value of their earned benefit.

And while DoD officials claim the program will "meet or exceed" access-to-care standards after the reduction in community care and the departure of 2,200 Kroger locations, some of the beneficiaries affected would take significant issue with that claim.

MOAA has heard from hundreds of these individuals, with complaints ranging from longer drives to availability concerns to significant financial burden caused by a pharmacy's departure from the network. This is an acute problem for long-term care (LTC) residents, many of whom don't have an option to switch drug providers if their LTC facility contracts with a local pharmacy.

MOAA has met with both Express Scripts (ESI) and the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to give them an opportunity to address our concerns. Express Scripts has now given independent pharmacies the opportunity to rejoin, but it is unclear whether the contract terms will be modified with more favorable reimbursements.

Grassroots efforts will be critical in reversing this pharmacy cut. Please watch the weekly MOAA Newsletter for additional calls to actin, and keep up with the latest on this and other issues at MOAA Advocacy News page. We hope you will aoso continue your individual outreach to your elected officials – hearing directly from constituents really does make a difference.

Upcoming Speakers for Chapter Business Meetings

29 January – JROTC Command Staff

26 February – Trevor Macy, Wichita PD Public Information Officer

26 March – Virginia "Gail" Joyce, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

30 April – Joe Stumpe, Author & Editor of *The Active Age*

28 May – Tony Mattivi, new Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director

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If necessary, Print Form, fill out information, scan completed form, and return to hq@wichitamoaa.org

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM FOR MOAA AND WICHITA CHAPTER MOAA

Name _____
Rank _____ Branch of Service _____
 Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse
Spouse name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Date of birth _____ Telephone _____
Email _____

(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA? Yes No Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a **BASIC** Membership at no cost to you.



And, for less than \$5 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. Visit moaa.org/join to learn more.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

• **Fill in this form** on your computer, save it, and email it to hq@wichita [add chapter email address/contact information] moaa.org as an attachment.

Do not include credit card information. We will contact you to finalize payment if required; or

• **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to Turn in at a monthly meeting, [add chapter payment info] Wichita Chapter MOAA ; or

• Go to <http://wichitamoaa.org/> [insert chapter webpage]

Chapter membership and dues information:

The membership of the chapter is composed of men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the reserve components as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the U.S. uniformed services as well as surviving spouses of a deceased individual eligible for membership.

Chapter dues are \$30/year with multi-year discounts for advance payment.

The chapter meets the fourth Sunday of the month from Sep to May at the Rolling Hills Country Club. A monthly newsletter is sent with updates on chapter activities and veterans information.

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.