



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



January 2021

President's Corner

Dear Members, Spouses and Families of the Wichita Chapter of MOAA,

Welcome to the future. It is now 2021 and I pray every day that this year will be a better year for all of us. I will not regale you with the list of tragedies and momentous events that filled our calendar last year. You are all well-versed on these events. But hope springs eternal. We should commit ourselves to remembering our blessings and working hard to make this year the greatest year of our lives. I will pray every day for the health, safety, and happiness of all of our members and their families.

Our next chapter brunch is January 24th at the Rolling Hills Country Club. If you have not been to a meeting in a while, please consider joining us. Of course, if you feel trepidation about going out in public, please stay home and be comfortable. And if you want to send me a note and let me know how you are doing; I will read your message at the luncheon. Just e-mail me at jhughey@usd259.net.

One subject that I teach in JROTC is continuous improvement. Continuous improvement is an intentional process that can be applied to any person or organization. We must continually evaluate ourselves and our organization in order to ensure that our chapter maintains relevancy. In military terms, we must continually sharpen our swords so as to be ready for future challenges. If any of you have any ideas about accomplishing these goals, please let me know. As a former military lawyer, I don't know how many times I heard the term "*we have always done it this way*" when I questioned the legitimacy or wisdom of a particular policy. Such a response reveals an unwillingness to forsake comfort and stability in order to avoid taking risks that may very well result in great reward for an organization. I am open to suggestions regarding the future of our chapter and welcome input from the many members of our chapter who exceed me in experience and intelligence.

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.

New MOAA National Chairman Highlights 2021 Priorities

Here are some of the associations' goals that Gen. Walter L. Sharp, USA (Ret), is focusing on this year:

Increasing Membership

We can increase membership if people understand and value what we're doing. Getting the word out on who we are and how we advocate for service-members and veterans and their families will drive our great value as worthy of membership. I ask all MOAA members to talk to others about the work MOAA is doing as well as the value of membership.

Innovating Chapters and Councils

Chapters are the lifeblood of MOAA, but their recruiting and community engagement efforts are challenged by the current crisis. We're countering with additional financial and training support to our state council presidents. Our virtual chapter program is thriving and expanding. We recently added a chapter supporting the U.S. Public Health Service and will look to initiate others in the future.

Focusing on diversity

Diversity of membership gives us diversity of thought – something that will position MOAA for even greater success in the future. We're working to further diversify the board of directors to ensure proper representation. In the months ahead, I look forward to working with the entire board, MOAA staff and MOAA members to strengthen MOAA and our ability to serve the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. Never stop serving!

MORE MOAA Mission Advocacy Highlights for 2021

Here are several new priorities MOAA has set as goals to present to the New Congress to defend you and your benefits. Here are some of the objectives being presented to the 117th Congress, as published in the January 2021 issue of ***Military Officer Magazine***:

Protecting health care and service-earned benefits continues to be a challenge. MOAA will press forward in engaging Congress to shape outcomes in the following vital areas:

OBJECTIVE: *Recognize the COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape for many of our priorities.*

OBJECTIVE: *Protect the value of Military health care benefits.*

OBJECTIVE: *Protect the Military Health Service pharmacy benefit and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.*

OBJECTIVE: *Address barriers to accessing care within the Military Health Services, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.*

OBJECTIVE: *Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.*

OBJECTIVE: *Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.*

(More MOAA Mission Advocacies highlights will be featured in next month's chapter newsletter).

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