



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



March 2021

President's Corner

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

March 20th will mark the first day of spring this year. This is perfect timing because our next brunch at Rolling Hills Country Club is March 21st. I walked around my yard yesterday and noticed signs of impending warmth. Buds on my peach and apple trees were getting larger and the grass was beginning a transition from winter brown to a light green. This winter has indeed been very cold and wet at times and all of us are looking forward to better weather. And remember to set your clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time on Saturday night, March 13th. Our chapter brunch on February 21st went very well. We had twenty-five attendees, and all were in good spirits. The USD 259 Cadet Corps leadership presented information on their goals and aspirations. All attendees were impressed with the cadets' polish and professionalism. Several guests were in attendance to include Gary and Suzanne Jarchow (guests of Russell and Sandy Muse). Gary is a retired Army CWO who served as a legal administrator in the JAG Corps. A big thank you to Gary and Suzanne for joining us. James Oswald also brought his wife, Janet, to the brunch for the first time. Janet is a nurse at Wesley and we really enjoyed having her at the brunch. Thank you, Janet, for spending some time with us. My son, Ethan, also joined us. Ethan is a senior nursing student at Emporia State and a combat medic in the Army Reserve.

USD 259 is now offering COVID vaccines to all district employees. Over 3,000 district employees have received their first of two shots. I have not received mine yet, but I know many people who have. This is yet another step in the process of returning to some degree of normalcy. The VA continues to expand its vaccination program and I foresee that in the near future, all veterans, regardless of age, will be able to get vaccinated.

Our speaker at the March 21st luncheon will be Julie Sanders, a veteran who helps other veterans get into college. We look forward to hearing from Julie. If you have any friends or acquaintances who are active duty, retired, or former military officers, please invite them to join us on March 21st. You won't have to worry about paying for their meals. We have implemented a chapter policy to pay for the first meal for all prospective members and one guest. A breakfast buffet will be served at a cost of \$16.00 per person. If possible, pay with a check due to our shortage of on hand cash for change. I look forward to seeing all of you at Rolling Hills on March 21st. Plan to arrive at @1130. Take care and be safe.

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

JROTC Competitions Cover a Wide Range of Activities

COL Robert Hester reported on JROTC activities during the past month. The first Leadership Drill Meet of the season was conducted Feb. 27th at Pleasant Valley Middle School. Six schools competed: PVMS, CMA, Hamilton, Marshall, Mead and Curtis. Expert judging was conducted by cadets from Northeast Magnet HS. Teams competed in Varsity and Junior Varsity Drill and Color Guard. Scorekeeping was done by Maj. Shellie Harmon and former and current JROTC cadets: Nathan Pham, Avely Luna and Maribel Rueda. Due to the COVID pandemic, an individual Drill was not conducted. Each team competed and then departed the school. Audience members did the same. Many parents came to the meet.

The results for Varsity Drill saw Marshall take first, while Hamilton and PVMS took 2nd and 3rd, respectively. CMA took first in the Varsity Color Guard while PVMS took 2nd and Mead placed 3rd. First place in the Junior Varsity Drill went to Marshall, while Mead and Hamilton placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Marshall also claimed first in the Junior Varsity Color Guard. "Congratulations to all teams and much thanks to PVMS for hosting the event," said Colonel Hester.

Thirty cadets from Southeast HS traveled to Leavenworth, KS on Feb. 27th to compete in a regional drill. There were 20 strong teams with a couple of previous National Champions participating in the drill. Colonel Hester reported that Southeast did very well and the cadets' behavior was outstanding. "We are proud of their hard work and performance," he said. They took first in the Team competition; 3rd in Armed Color Guard; and 4th place in the Armed Regulation, Unarmed Regulation, and Unarmed Color Guard. Christiana Mitchell came in 1st place in the individual drill down while competing with 500 cadets.

The 6th grade Leadership Honorary Cadet Board was conducted on March 2nd. Adryan Haydon was named the Honorary Cadet. Others appearing before the board were Nariah Harris, Hamilton; Daisy Palmerin, PVMS; Sophia Diaz, Curtis; Antonio Logan, Marshall; Gabriel Meza and Josh Hockett, Jardine. Members of the Board were Communications Director Wendy Johnson, Public Affairs Officer, Terrell Davis. Corps Commander C/Col. Peter Porcaro, and Colonel Hester. Corps Deputy Commander Jonathan Turner served as Recorder for the Board, and C/Command Sergeant Major Victoria Brown stayed with the cadets throughout the Board -- encouraging and preparing them for the competition. Cadets were evaluated based on their overall performance before the Board, in the Leadership Program, and in school. They were asked questions on Citizenship, Leadership, Current Events, Customs and Courtesies and team drill.

The Let 1 JROTC Honorary Cadet Board was conducted on March 3rd. Cadets appearing before the Board were Madison Fowler, East; Winter Walker, North; Brighton Davis, Northwest, Quincy McCarther, Heights; Connor Fawcett, South, and Achilles Young, Southeast. Achilles Young and Connor Facett were selected co-winners of the Board. Cadets were evaluated based on their overall performance before the Board, and in the JROTC Program, school, customs and Courtesies and team drill. Members of the Board were 1st Lt. Aaliyah Graham; SFC Matt Weller, SSG Jose Sifuentes, and Colonel Hester. Recorder for the Board was Cadet Corps Command Sergeant Major Victoria Brown. The Corps Commander, Peter Porcaro, helped prepare the cadets for the board.

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.

Be Sure to Read MOAA's March issue of *Military Officer Magazine*

The magazine is loaded with great features and articles. The cover story highlights women "inspiring the next generation of servicemembers. Other features include MOAA's key accomplishments from their recent work with Congress; Charlotte McDaniel's mission to give a voice to the wives of Vietnam veterans; find out how some MOAA members are helping to pass legislation in their home states, and retired Army LTC Chuck Howe's work in starting a wellness center in New Mexico to those struggling with post-traumatic stress.

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 Yanchesky
DIRECTOR	MAJ Andy Trager