



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



President's Corner

March 2022

Dear Chapter Members: Thank you to all chapter members who attended our brunch on February 27th. Thirty-nine of us enjoyed a wonderful meal complete with breakfast and dinner items. One of my favorites was the fried catfish. We enjoyed a presentation by David Kennedy who is the VFW representative at the VA hospital here in Wichita. After listening to his presentation, it is clear that Mr. Kennedy performs an extremely difficult and vital function for veterans here in southern Kansas. We should lift him up in prayer every day. And thank you to all members who brought gifts for the raffle and purchased raffle tickets. We raised approximately \$90 for our fund that supports worthwhile causes in our community. I failed to mention this at the meeting, both Bill and Marilyn Beaver were not able to attend the meeting because one of them experienced a fall to the ground in the days before the meeting. Please keep the Beavers in your prayers.

Mike George also presented information about military-related legislative initiatives here in Kansas. Those initiatives are contained in this newsletter. I encourage you to contact your Kansas senator and legislator in support of these bills.

I found out yesterday that Jim Wohlwend passed away on February 28th. As many of you know, Jim's wife, Karen, passed away last summer. Jim was the Senior Air Force Instructor at Derby High School for many years and was a long time member of our chapter. Please pray for the Wohlwend family.

We are looking for new chapter leaders. My two-year tenure as President is ending in May. Our 1st 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.

Our next brunch is Sunday, March 27th. 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 Lisa Teachman who is the weather reporter for KSN. 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 a free meal along with their spouse. Derby High School cadets will serve as the Color Guard. See you on the 27th.

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

Guest Speaker for the March Chapter Luncheon

Emmy Award-winning meteorologist Lisa Teachman will be our guest speaker for the March 27 luncheon at Rolling Hills Country Club. Ms. Teachman is the Chief Meteorologist for the KSN Storm Track 3 Weather Team. Born and raised in the Wichita suburb of Haysville, she began her broadcasting career in 1996 as an intern under then Chief Meteorologist Dave Freeman. After completing her undergraduate studies at Wichita State University and Mississippi State University, she went on to serve weather teams in Huntington, WV; Baltimore, MD; and Kansas City, MO. She has been recognized by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters for having the best weathercast in Wichita. Her passion for meteorology began in her youth. Her father, a U.S. Marine veteran, is a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service volunteer, assisting in emergency communications for Sedgwick County. The brunch begins at 11 a.m., and the program starts at 12:15 p.m.

TROW News and Information

TROW President Sue Bush said there will be a luncheon March 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Newport Grill in Bradley Fair on North Rock Road. TROW will be celebrating 53 years of friendship. Sue said they will also be recognizing past presidents. Callers will be contacting members for their reservations. We will be ordering from a limited menu as we have in the past at Newport Grill. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Important End of Life Documents to Share with Your Family

By [Anne Hartline](#), chair, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (National MOAA)

Planning for the future includes having financial affairs in order, sharing your personal affairs with your family, and keeping important documents together in an accessible place. Discussing information about handling business after your death is one of life's most difficult tasks. However, making preparations and sharing with your spouse, children, or the executor of your estate is a priceless gift. Frequently, spouses have the perspective that sharing this information would burden their loved one. However, avoiding these preparations creates a cruel weight that can cause much anxiety at a most difficult time.

MOAA has available several helpful publications that can be completed and shared with your family. [Personal Affairs Action Guide: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind](#) is a workbook for servicemembers with space to list details essential for smooth transitions for survivors. [Survivor's Planning Guide](#), also designed for filling in the blanks, was created for surviving spouses. These guides are available for download on MOAA's website. Life and Premium members can order hard copies from MOAA. One of the benefits of membership in MOAA is the availability of its many publications.

In addition to income, other financial information is critical knowledge to provide for survivors. Some considerations include determining how much income will be required for your spouse to maintain your current lifestyle. Your spouse will not inherit any VA disability benefits you are receiving. If you have elected to purchase the Survivor Benefit Program, your surviving spouse will receive a maximum 55 percent of your retired pay. Consider your spouse's personal sources of income and the penalties for being single, including possible increases in health insurance and a greater tax rate on Social Security. Examine

life insurance policies for beneficiaries. If you have named a charity or another inheritor, consider whether your spouse might need that money to pay bills.

Step up! Plan and share information as a priceless gift to your spouse and family!

Kansas Veterans 2023 Legislative Priorities

The following proposals affect veterans living in Kansas and are being sponsored by the Kansas Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) Coalition:

1. Exempt first \$30,000 from income tax for currently serving military members (active duty, National Guard/Reserve).(House Bill (HB) 2467).
2. Support Food Sales Tax Reduction/Elimination for disabled veterans and military families (HB 2487).
3. Adjust State Tuition Assistance Program to include professional education.
4. Support full funding for all programs/enhancements of KCVA and Adjutant General's budgets for FY 2023.
5. Eliminate sales tax on VSO funds used to directly help veterans.
6. Support and monitor submissions by KCVA to preserve/retore original scope for a Veteran's Home proposal. *(Information provided by Lt.Col. Michael George, Legislative Liaison for the Wichita MOAA Chapter).*

JROTC Honorary Cadet Board Selectees Announced

COL Robert Hester, Director of JROTC for USD 259, reported the district recently conducted two honorary cadet boards. Izabella Scheufler of Northwest HS was selected as the LET 1 Honorary Cadet. She competed against Nevaeh Jarvis (Heights HS); Ninya Ruckle (Northeast Magnet); Kaden Moody (South HS); Nur Syahidah (Southeast HS); Emily Almendarez (East HS); and David Alvarez (North HS). Members of the reviewing board were Lt.Col Norwood, SFC Stevens, SGT Guerra and COL Hester. Recorder for the board was Cadet Corps Commander Jesse Bartlett. The cadets were evaluated on their overall performance before the board, and in the JROTC Program. They were asked questions on Citizenship, Leadership, Current Events, Customs and Courtesies, and team drill.

COL Hester also reported the results of the 6th Grade Leadership Cadet Board which resulted in a tie for the top spot by Debanhi Granados (Mead MS) and Lilyanna Morales-Garcia (Hamilton MS). Others competing in the board competition were Angela Palacios-Castillo (Curtis MS); Alina Coupradit (PVMS); Izabella Lopez (Hadley MS), and Madison Fountain (Marshall MS). Members of the reviewing board were BOE Vice President Hedrick, Ms. Alejandra Ramirez, C/COL Jesse Bartlett and COL Hester. Recorder was C/LtCol Nicole Damari, Corps CSM. Several parents were also present to witness their

cadet's presentation. The candidates were asked questions on Citizenship, Leadership, Current Events, Customs and Courtesies and team drill. In other JROTC news, Wichita MOAA chapter president, LTC John Hughey, reported that his cadets at Northwest HS competed in the Leavenworth HS Drill Meet and finished 6th out of 22 armed color guard teams. His cadets also visited the World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO.

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 |