



WICHITA CHAPTER NEWS

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



MARCH 2, 2020

DEAR MOAA MEMBERS,

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Saint Patrick's feast day, as a kind of national day, was celebrated by the Irish in Europe in the ninth and tenth centuries. The first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade was held not in Ireland but in New York City in 1762, and with the dramatic increase of Irish immigrants to the United States in the mid-19th century, the March 17th celebration became widespread. The first St Patrick's Day parade in Ireland was held in [Waterford](#), Ireland in 1903. It has expanded since then to the many parades and festivities we have today.

As you may have seen, DOD has published the list of military facilities closing or cutting back their medical facilities. Fortunately, McConnell AFB was not on the list. Unfortunately, the reductions may not be finished. The move appears to be to have all retirees and dependents go to local civilian medical facilities and for pharmacies to cut back to those formularies necessary for active duty personnel. (See the attached extract from MOAA National Newsletter)

As for happenings in our chapter, we hosted the JROTC cadet staffs from the Wichita JROTC and Leadership Programs and Derby HS AFJROTC at our February brunch. The cadets gave an in-depth look at what their programs are doing and what they as individuals are planning to do after high school. For me it's always a great experience to see what the cadets have done and are planning to do. It helps maintain my faith in the coming generations. In addition to our February brunch, I attended the Kansas Council of Chapters quarterly meeting in Overland Park. At the meeting we had a special presentation by Patrick Venson of War Horses for Veterans. It's an organization helping veterans and first responders to recover from PTSD and other stress related situations through the care of and riding of horses. It sounds similar to what Teresa Cowan-Christen Psy.D. of Welcome Wellness LLC, Horses, Humans and Healing presented to us at our November 2019 brunch. The big difference is the riding part of War Horses. The council also discussed the upcoming National Guard on 16 – 18 April at the Holiday Inn East. Since it will be here in Wichita, we were asked to help with manning a MOAA information and recruiting table. I will send out additional information and ask for volunteers soon. The last piece of news from the meeting was an announcement about a Korean War Commemoration being held at the Topeka Aviation Museum on 27 June. I'll send out more information about it as I get it. For our next brunch, our speaker will be Judge Kevin Smith, Sedgwick County Court.

Finally, there is a request from MOAA National to please contact our Congressman/Senators and advocate for the necessary legislation to ensure our benefits are maintained.

As always, your input is always welcome. Email all concerns to me at m2george55@gmail.com. Also, please save the dates for upcoming MOAA Meetings: 15 Mar, 14 Apr and, 19 May.

Sincerely,
Michael R. George, President

Chapter Luncheon and Business Meeting

Our chapter luncheon and business meeting will be March 15, at the Rolling Hills Country Club. The buffet opens at 11 a.m., and the program starts at 12:30. Our keynote speaker is Judge Kevin Smith, the Division 12 Judge of the 18th Judicial District Court. He was appointed in 2015 by Gov. Sam Brownback. Judge Smith has practiced law in Kansas for over 17 years. He started his career doing employment law with Martin, Churchill. After that he also served as an Assistant D.A. for Sedgwick County. Judge Smith graduated cum laude from Regent University School of Law in 1999. Please come out and join us for what promises to be an enlightening program.

TROW Luncheon Meeting

The TROW meeting will be March 20 at the Candle Club, 6135 E. 13th St. N., and begins at 11:30 a.m. This will be the TROW Birthday Luncheon which honors past Presidents of the organization. Please come out for what promises to be a fun program.

JROTC Students Participate in a Wide Variety of Activities

Cadets from JROTC units located in Wichita and Derby participated in a number of events and activities during the months of February and March. Color guards from Northwest High School presented the colors at the 3 Grizzlies basketball game. Northwest Color Guard cadets also participated in naturalization ceremony for 200 people who became U.S. citizens. During the first week of March 15 JROTC and leadership cadets participated in an Honor Board at the district headquarters. Each cadet sat before a board of current and retired military officers and answered questions on leadership, citizen ship, military customs and courtesies, and current events. On March 7th, 150 Wichita JROTC cadets participated in the Air Capitol Drill Meet at South High School. Also, during March, a board was conducted to select the next Corps leadership for the Wichita Corps of Cadets.

During February, Derby High School cadets present the Colors at the Wichita Thunder Hockey game. And 14 Derby cadets signed-in parents and provided escorts at the Derby High School Parent/Teacher's Conference. Fifteen cadets volunteered at the Oaklawn Elementary School's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Night, and provided a SABER team at the "night to Shine" prom in Winfield, KS. Cadets formed an arch with SABERS for special needs prom attendees to walk under. Cadets also volunteered at the Wichita Remote/Control auction at the Cessna Activity Center. Eight cadets assembled, decorated, and transported 40 food collection boxes for the Derby Lion's Club. The food went to the Derby Food Pantry for needy families. Cadets also volunteered at the Derby Hills Elementary School Literacy Night. And the Derby SABER Team presented colors and the Corps Choir sang the National Anthem at the Derby High School basketball game Feb. 28.

Items of Interest from National MOAA

A recent article published by Military.com gives us the first look at the Defense Health Agency's plan to move about 200,000 military family members, retirees, and their families

and survivors into the TRICARE civilian network. Congress directed the rightsizing of the direct care system as part of comprehensive Military Health System (MHS) Reform Legislation included in the FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The legislation required DoD to develop an implementation plan to restructure and realign military treatment facilities (MTFs). The congressional intent of these changes is to sharpen focus of the MHS on readiness of both operational forces and the medical professionals.

Military.com obtained a memo that details the impacts of the proposed MTF restructuring. Highlights include:

- 50 hospitals and clinics will be impacted. Services at 48 MTFs will be reduced while two may be expanded. A full list is available on the MOAA website. At 36 outpatient clinics, DoD recommends reducing the scope of MTFs to serve only active-duty servicemembers, while in many cases maintaining pharmacy services for all beneficiaries. Based on TRICARE enrollment data included in the FY 19 Annual Evaluation of the TRICARE Program Report to Congress,

MOAA's Tips for Engaging Congress

Interested in helping MOAA accomplish its 2020 legislative mission? Here are five ways to get involved; if you have a specific interest or question about a legislative matter, contact MOAA's government relations team at legis@moaa.org.

- 1. Identify your congressional representatives.** A quick Google search can usually tell you who represents your congressional district, but if you aren't sure, reach out to MOAA staff directly. And if you're an active duty servicemember or spouse living outside the district you vote in, make sure to engage with your representatives at your home and in the district where you currently live.
- 2. Choose a specific issue.** Identifying a targeted topic and outcome can help focus the conversation with your representative. It's even better if you can share your personal connection to the issue.
- 3. Call your representative's offices directly.** MOAA provides a direct number to the Capitol Switchboard, which will connect you directly to the office of your members of Congress.
- 4. Use the MOAA Take Action Center.** MOAA provides email and letter templates for engaging on timely issues of importance to our members, as well as a system to submit them directly to your representatives. Visit takeaction.moaa.org.
- 5. Start a social media campaign.** Engage with your representatives on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media platforms, and encourage your friends and family members to do the same. The greater the number of comments on an issue, the more likely it is to grab the attention of a congressional office and encourage staffers to respond.