



# Wichita Chapter News



May 2023

Dear MOAA Members,

The unofficial start of summer is in sight. Memorial Day is the Monday following our last meeting of the spring, 28 May, Amen. To me it was a fairly short year. I'm sure for some of you summer didn't get here quick enough. I know Beth feels this way, she hates the cold. Regardless, "We are where we are..." (Isaac Marion, *Warm Bodies*) I would particularly like to thank everyone for our recovery from COVID 19 and the return to normalcy for our chapter. Thanks especially to John Hughey and the executive committee for getting us back on track last spring and the first part of the fall. That carried over to the superb transition to the new executive committee and the continuation of our tradition of monthly meetings at Rolling Hills Country Club from September through May.

We had several significant accomplishments I'd like to review and applaud for the year. First is Roy Yenchesky's certificate of recognition as an outstanding surviving spouse liaison. Roy has done an incredible job of supporting surviving spouses and families as well as several ill members this past year. Similarly, Earl Shellner and Walt Nelson were recognized for 4 Star Levels of Excellence for our newsletters and website respectively. This adds to a long tradition of receiving these awards and I would point out we were the only chapter in the Kansas Council to receive awards in both categories. In addition, we did an overhaul of our bylaws last year and will do another this summer. There are several proposed changes. The first is to align our election year with our fiscal year, starting and ending everything at the same time. Right now, the plan is to have our next election in October with the new executive committee installed in December.

The second major change is to establish TROW as a quasi-autonomous committee under the Vice President for Membership. TROW bylaws will be integrated with the MOAA bylaws. Bringing the two groups into one gives the TROW members better access to information and increases the size of our chapter. A lot of work will need to be done. The last things to update are administrative in nature. We need to better define the job descriptions of our executive committee and bring our terminology in line with MOAA National. If you are interested in working on the bylaws, please let me know. Finally, in regard to our election in October, please let me know if you are interested in any of the positions. Currently we need candidates for Vice President for Membership, Vice President for Programs, Secretary and one Director at Large. If you need more information about the positions, don't hesitate to call.

I had hoped to include the highlights of MOAA's annual trip to Capitol Hill; however, that information has not been released. I will send out a separate President's Corner letter when the information is available. Rest assured that MOAA National is pressing ahead in

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advocating for the legislative priorities listed under the Advocacy tab on the MOAA website. A significant proposed legislative change not listed was just discussed on [www.military.com](http://www.military.com). It deals with doing away with the "Remarriage Penalty for Spouses of Service Members Who Died in Uniform". The Senate Bill is currently in committee and there is hope that it will be brought to the floor for a vote this year. The bill was co-authored by Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan. Please read the MOAA National Newsletter for more information and consider contacting our Congressman/ Senators and advocating for the necessary legislation to ensure our benefits are maintained or improved.

Our first meeting this fall will be on 24 September, same start time and place, 12:15, Rolling Hills Country Club, doors open for brunch at 1100. I look forward to another busy and productive year.

As always, your input is always welcome. Email all concerns to me at [m2george55@gmail.com](mailto:m2george55@gmail.com) or call me at 316-214-3461.

Sincerely,  
Michael R. George, President

## **Chief Joe Sullivan Highlights our May 28 Business Meeting**

Chief Joe Sullivan, head of the Wichita Police Department, will be our guest speaker May 28 at the Rolling Hills Country Club. He was selected to lead the Wichita Police Department last October and assumed the position in December. He is a veteran of more than 30 years with the Philadelphia Police Department. He held the rank of deputy commissioner and commanded a force of 4,698 sworn and professional staff.

Chief Sullivan is the father of three grown children. His daughter Sara is an animal biologist. His other daughter Sara is an interior designer, and his son Joe Jr. is also in law enforcement. Sullivan will lead 900 people as head of the WPD. He feels community outreach is the way to build strong relations between the police and the public.

There is a full buffet that day at the Rolling Hills Country Club. Dining begins at 11 a.m. and costs \$22 per person. Please pay with a check or exact amount of cash for your meal.. The business meeting starts at noon. Please respond to President Mike George's RSVP which goes out about a week before the meeting. He will ask if you plan to attend, and how many guests you plan to bring. Hope to see you there.

## **The TROW Monthly Meeting is set for May 19th**

The Retired Officers Wives Club will meet this Friday at the Rolling Hills Country Club. Attendees are encouraged to start arriving at 11 a.m. so that the luncheon can begin at 11:30. President Sue Tanner says the menu will be quiche, fresh fruit and a cinnamon roll. The reservation committee is calling members and can provide more details. If you have not been called, please contact Sue Tanner at 316-259-4153, or Cindy Rodman at

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316-634-9011. When paying for the luncheon, please have exact change, or a check, as the treasurer does not keep much change with her.

Sue also said TROW will continue to meet this summer on the third Friday of each month. These will be Friendship luncheons. As such, there will be no program and no chosen menus. It will be a time to visit and for each participant to choose their own meal. If you are not a member of TROW yet, please contact Jeri Shellner at 316-655-1935 for more information.

## **Tricare Pharmacy Prices Will Increase in 2024**

Karen Ruedisueli, a writer for MOAA National's *Officer Magazine*, wrote a great article in the May 2023 issue about how prices will increase for prescription medication copays next year. She outlines how these changes were brought about in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). She said that same legislation also gives DoD authority to adjust copays for 2028 and beyond to reflect changes in the cost of pharmaceutical agents and prescription drug dispensing.

MOAA National has already started discussion on Capitol Hill to establish guardrails on this authority, with the goal of limiting DoD increases on those copays. We can all help in this effort by contacting our Kansas legislators in Congress and the Senate.

## **Chapter Executive Committee Positions to be filled for 2024**

**Vice President for Membership** (Currently Vacant – Tasks being done by the President)

- Oversee the efforts to retain existing members and recruit new ones
- Oversee the committee's efforts to establish goals, plan and carry out membership-solicitation drives, and follow up on leads concerning potential members
- Submit a written description of the chapter's recruiting/retention level of effort and results to the president annually for inclusion in the chapter's Levels of Excellence award submission
- Report pertinent membership information to national MOAA (deceased members, changed contact information, etcetera) in a timely manner
- Report new members to national MOAA via the MOAA Web Base
- Aid new members with the national/chapter membership process as needed
- Assume the duties of the president when they are unavailable

**Vice President for Programs** (Currently filled by Paul Inman – He would like to be relieved)

- Oversee efforts to plan and execute a program of activities in consonance with the purposes of the chapter and the desires of the membership
- Develop programs, schedules, dates, locations, menus, etcetera for chapter meetings

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- Coordinate audio/visual requirements to suit each program's requirements
- Plan and/or coordinate other activities as needed
- Submit monthly meeting announcements to the local media and chapter newsletter

**Secretary** (Currently filled by Earl Shellner – He would like to be relieved)

- Provide timely written notification of all meetings of the chapter and of the Executive Committee and shall maintain a record of all proceedings
- Publish a newsletter or oversee the publication by the newsletter editor, prior to monthly, general membership meetings
- Maintain membership records

**Webmaster** (Currently filled by Walt Nelson – He would like an assistant)

- Maintain the chapter website
  - Information about the chapter
  - Chapter activities
  - Provide to other websites the Executive Committee deems appropriate

Please speak to Mike George, or any of the officers currently serving, if you are interested in filling any of the positions listed above.