



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Nov. 11, 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY LT. COL. MICHAEL R. GEORGE

DEAR MOAA MEMBERS:

I WRITE THIS AS WE COMMEMORATE THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE ENDING WORLD WAR I, THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. AS WE ALL KNOW THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, AND WE FOUND OURSELVES IN NO SMALL NUMBER OF WARS AND CONFLICTS OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS. EVEN TODAY WE HAVE TROOPS ENGAGED IN COMBAT AND COMBAT SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE WORLD. LET US NOT FAIL TO REMEMBER THEM AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR AND MAY EACH OF US, IN OUR OWN WAY, WISH THEM WELL AND HOPE FOR THEIR SAFE RETURN TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I HOPE ALL OF YOU HAD A REFLECTIVE AND BLESSED VETERANS DAY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP IN SETTING UP THIS YEAR'S VETERANS DAY PARADE AND MOAA'S ENTRY IN IT. (THANKS ESPECIALLY TO ROY YENCHESKY FOR SUPPLYING HIS DUCK BOAT). UNFORTUNATELY, THE PARADE WAS CANCELLED. WITH THE WEATHER FORECAST TO BE IN THE TEENS WITH WINDS DROPPING THE WIND CHILL INTO THE LOW SINGLE DIGITS, CANCELLING THE PARADE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY WAS THE ONLY PRUDENT CHOICE. AS I'VE TOLD OTHERS, WE AREN'T REALLY CANCELLING THE PARADE, WE'RE JUST POSTPONING IT FOR 364 DAYS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW, THE NEXT PARADE WILL BE ON SATURDAY, NOV. 9, 2019! SAME TIME, SAME PLACE.

LAST MONTH WE HAD A VERY ENLIGHTENING PRESENTATION BY MR. PETER GRANDE, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE U.S. DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS AT LEAVENWORTH. AS SOMEONE WHO LOVES HISTORY, IT WAS FASCINATING TO HEAR NOW THE DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM DEVELOPED WITHIN THE ARMY/MILITARY AND THE ROLE LEAVENWORTH PLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT. FOR OUR BRUNCH SUNDAY, OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL HIGHLIGHT SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE FOR RETIREES UNDER FEDVIP.

ALONG THOSE LINES IF YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THIS MONTH'S MOAA MAGAZINE, THERE IS AN EXTENSIVE COMPARISON CHART FOR THE NEW HEALTH OPTIONS. YOU MAY WANT TO LOOK AT WHAT'S AVAILABLE.

WE'RE UP TO 36 RESPONSES FOR THE CHAPTER INTEREST SURVEY ON SURVEY MONKEY – ABOUT HALF OF OUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. YOU CAN STILL SUBMIT RESPONSES AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE UPDATED STATISTICS AT OUR MEETING SUNDAY.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO WISH ALL A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING. ALL OF US, SERVICE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES ALIKE, KNOW ABOUT FAMILY SEPARATIONS AND OTHER SACRIFICES WE'VE MADE IN SERVING OUR COUNTRY. IT PUTS US IN A VERY SELECT GROUP. FEWER THAN 2% OF AMERICANS SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES. MOREOVER, I THINK IT MAKES US MORE THAN MEMBERS OF A GROUP, IT MAKES US FAMILY. WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. WE'VE HAD MANY SIMILAR EXPERIENCES AND WE HAVE A LOVE AND DEVOTION TO THIS COUNTRY THAT IS DIFFERENT THAN MOST OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS. WE DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH EACH OTHER, BUT WE CAN AGREE TO DISAGREE AND STILL GO ON TO DO WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE GROUP AND WHAT WE BELIEVE IN. THAT'S THE GREATEST REASON I TRULY ENJOY BEING PART OF MOAA, AND SERVING AS YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT.

MOAA BRUNCH GUEST SPEAKER:

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE BRUNCH THIS SUNDAY AT ROLLING HILLS IS **MARY EARY**. MARY WAS BORN IN NEBRASKA BUT GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL IN LAMAR, MO. SHE BEGAN WORKING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN 1957 AS A CLERK-TYPIST FOR THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION IN KANSAS CITY, MO. SHE FOLLOWED THAT WITH ASSIGNMENTS AT WALKER AFB, NM, OFFUTT AFB, NE, AND THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN NEBRASKA. SHE ARRIVED AT MCCONNELL IN 1965 AND SERVED IN THE CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON, ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE OFFICE AND MISSION SUPPORT GROUP.

SHE RETIRED FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE IN JANUARY 2012, AFTER 55 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE. SINCE THEN SHE HAS VOLUNTEERED AS MANAGER OF THE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT MCCONNELL. LUNCH BEGINS AT 11:30 A.M., AND THE CHAPTER MEETING STARTS AT 12:45.

NEW DENTAL/VISION PLANS

THE OPEN SEASON FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE NEW DENTAL AND VISION COVERAGE FOR TRICARE BENEFICIARIES BEGAN NOV. 12 AND ENDS DEC. 10. BENEFICIARIES CAN NOW COMPARE PLAN COSTS AS THEY CONSIDER THEIR COVERAGE. THE PROGRAM, FEDVIP, REPLACES THE TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM MANAGED BY DELTA DENTAL, WHICH ENDS DEC. 31. THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM) SAID THE AVERAGE DENTAL GROSS PREMIUM INCREASED 1.2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR. THE AVERAGE VISION GROSS PREMIUM DROPPED 2.8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR. THERE IS A DETAILED ARTICLE IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF MOAA'S **MILITARY OFFICER** MAGAZINE WHICH DESCRIBES THE 10 DENTAL AND FOUR VISION PLANS TO BE OFFERED. ALSO, YOU NEED ASK YOUR DENTIST IF THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDVIP PLAN. OTHERWISE, YOU MAY NEED TO SELECT ANOTHER DENTIST.

TROW MEETING FRIDAY

TROW MEETS NOV. 16 AT SCOTCH AND SIRLOIN AT 11:30 A.M. GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE GUY BOWER. CONTACT KAREN WOHLWEND FOR MORE INFORMATION, AT 788-9308

NEW LEADER AT MOAA NATIONAL

ADM. WALTER DORAN, USN (RET), TOOK OVER AS CHAIR OF MOAA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON NOV. 2. HE TOOK THE REINS FROM GEN. JOHN J. SHEEHAN, USMC (RET), WHO SERVED FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. ADMIRAL DORAN PLANS TO MOVE MOAA'S MISSION AHEAD FULL STEAM. HERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS POSED TO HIM BY AMANDA DOLASINSKI DURING A RECENT INTERVIEW:

Q. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU BELIEVE FACE SERVICEMEMBERS? WHAT ARE THE WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A. I THINK WHAT MOAA DOES THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS ACTING AS AN ADVOCATE FOR CURRENTLY SERVING, THOSE WHO HAVE JUST TRANSITIONED, THE RECENTLY RETIRED, AND THE RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE SERVICES. WE'LL BE REACHING OUT TO THE HILL, MAKING SURE WE UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON UP ON CAPITOL HILL, WATCHING THE BUDGET. ALL THOSE THINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. THEY AFFECT THE LIVES OF OUR VETERANS AND OUR CURRENTLY SERVING PEOPLE.

Q. WHAT VETERAN ADVOCACY MISSIONS DO YOU SEE AS MOST CRITICAL RIGHT NOW?

A. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LONG-TERM CONCERNS THAT MOAA HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED WITH. PAY AND BENEFITS: WE NEED TO WATCH THE BUDGET VERY, VERY, CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE WE ARE PROTECTING THE BENEFITS THAT OUR SERVICEMEMBERS HAVE EARNED BY THEIR SERVICE. TRICARE REFORM AND WHAT HAPPENS WITH TRICARE: WE ARE IN SUPPORT OF TRICARE REFORM. WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE THINGS THAT COULD PERHAPS BE DONE BETTER. BUT TRICARE REFORM DOES NOT MEAN JUST RAISING FEES. SO WE NEED TO BE VERY CLOSE TO THAT ISSUE SO WE CAN ADVOCATE FOR WHAT THE RIGHT WAY AHEAD WOULD BE.

THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HAS A HOST OF ISSUES, AND I KNOW WE HAVE A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VA. WE NEED TO STAY CLOSE TO THAT ONE AS THEY REFORM AND HOPEFULLY GET MORE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY. THE WIDOWS TAX HAS BEEN A BIG ISSUE FOR US. IT'S A HARD ONE FOR CONGRESS TO GET THEIR ARMS AROUND, BUT WE NEED TO DO THE RIGHT THING. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE REPEAL OF THE TAX BECAUSE IT IS JUST UNFAIR AND UNJUST.

THINGS TO DO IN WICHITA FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BOTANICA'S ANNUAL ILLUMINATIONS ARE THE PREMIER LIGHT DISPLAY FROM NOV. 23 – DEC. 31, 5:30 – 8:30 P.M. ENTRY IS \$10 FOR ADULTS AND \$7 FOR MEMBERS. MILITARY,

AND YOUTH 2 AND UNDER, GET IN FREE. CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY. YOU CAN HEAR LIVE MUSIC AND VISIT WITH SANTA. **SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO** CELEBRATES WITH THEIR THANKSGIVING SAFARI, NOV. 21, FROM 8 A.M.- NOON. TICKETS ARE \$15 FOR MEMBERS AND \$22 FOR NON-MEMBERS. KIDS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE ZOO'S ANIMALS IN FUN AND INNOVATIVE WAYS. FOR GRADES 1 - 5. DROP THE KIDS OFF FOR FUN WHILE YOU DO LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING.

REMEMBER, THE CHRISTMAS CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE DEC. 9 AT ROLLING HILLS. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.