



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



October 2020

President's Corner

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

In late September, I had the pleasure of participating in an on-line national MOAA training session for chapter and council leaders. The session was highly informative and allowed me to learn more about the mission of MOAA. As most of you know, MOAA's primary mission is to serve as an advocate at the national and state level for the interests of the military community to include members on active duty, the reserves, retired, military dependents and surviving spouses. My impressions from the conference were that the service of both the national MOAA organization and local chapters is driven by a strong and selfless desire to serve their members and their local military communities. I trust that you see the leadership of the Wichita chapter in the same way.

One aspect of our chapter that I have observed over the last seven years is that the average age of our membership is growing older (including myself!). Based on my observations from the training session, this is true with most of the MOAA chapters across this great nation. Heck, I was probably one of the youngest chapter presidents in the training. Several chapter presidents alluded to the aging nature of their chapters. It was apparent to me that unless we come up with ways to rejuvenate our ranks with younger members, we are destined to continue our membership decline. With our past inability to attract younger members, and the increasing age of our membership, the number of attendees at our monthly meetings has dwindled over the last seven years. We used to have 50 to 60 attendees at our monthly meetings and now we struggle to get 35 attendees. Some formerly attending members have either passed on or are simply too frail to attend.

I need every member's assistance in recruiting the next generation of Wichita Chapter members. Yes, the 2nd vice-president of our Chapter, LTC Joe Bilik, is responsible for recruiting new members, but we all have the responsibility of recruiting for our chapter. If you know of any active duty, reserve/national guard, or retired military officer or their surviving spouses, please invite them to a monthly brunch and consider sponsoring their meal. Once they see how handsome the leadership team is, they will be sure to come back!

Lastly, I intently desire to resume monthly brunches as soon as possible. This will largely depend upon the membership's comfort level in attending. There are certain measures that we can take at our meetings to minimize risk such as masks, social distancing and

using sanitizer. I want us to be safe, but I also want to enjoy fellowship with all of you. I miss each of you and look forward to seeing all of you again. Hopefully, soon.

Sincerely,

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

Slate of 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 Yenchesky
DIRECTOR	MAJ Andy Trager

Wichita and Derby JROTC Units Continue to Compete and Serve

The Wichita JROTC and leadership programs continue in an on-line schooling mode. All instructors have indicated that they have worked through the bugs in the system and are providing effective instruction for their cadets. Consideration is being given to moving to a hybrid model on November 9th. This would involve both in-class and on-line at the same time. “Whatever the challenge, the Wichita JROTC and leadership instructors will meet it,” said LTC John Hughey, our chapter president. The orienteering season ended Oct. 3rd with an orienteering meet at Pawnee Prairie North Nature Park. Some 50 cadets were in attendance. Northwest High won first place; Heights High took second, and West High and South High tied for third place. Two Raider Challenge meets will be conducted at Southeast High this month. The course will involve a spear throw, a rope bridge, a 3-kilometer run, an obstacle course, and a tug of war competition. There will be no Veterans Day ceremony or parade this year due to the virus.

Six Derby High School AFJROTC cadets recently participated in the American Legion, Post #408 POW/MIA Ceremony in front of the Derby city library. They presented the colors and participated in the ceremony as the names of Kansas MIA were read. Col. (USAF-Ret.) Michael Dillard was the guest speaker. Colonel Dillard is the AFJROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for Derby H.S., and a former president of the Wichita MOAA Chapter. Eleven Derby cadets were presented the “I Make A Difference Award,” at a

recent Derby Public School District Board of Education meeting. The Cadets also spent a total of 746 community service hours during the Summer Free Meals Program. They served thousands of meals, despite facing adverse weather conditions in some cases. On Oct. 3rd, 18 Derby cadets painted a map of the United States on the Park Hill Elementary playground. That same day cadets presented the Colors at the American Legion Post #408 "Rock Road Dedication to Veterans."

No Chapter Meetings scheduled this month

There will not be a MOAA Chapter meeting at Rolling Hills this month, nor will there be a TROW luncheon. Chapter president, LTC John Hughey sent out a Survey Monkey solicitation earlier this month for the chapter meeting, but the results were nearly split. It was determined that the turnout for a meeting would not be sufficient to book the venue. He will send out another survey to determine if we should have a November meeting. Please take time to respond to these surveys. Your support is greatly appreciated.

myPay Announces Two-Factor Authentication Coming Soon

Your identity and financial information will soon be receiving an additional level of security, according to officials at the Defense Finance Accounting Service. The two-factor authentication uses your smart phone number or email address to verify that you are accessing your account information instead of someone who has compromised your myPay login ID and password. This type of system is already in use at many banks and credit unions. The system will provide an extra measure of protection in safeguarding pay account information for military retirees and annuitants. More detailed information concerning these changes is available on the DFAS public website (www.dfas.mil) (<https://www.dfas.mil>).

Visit Wichita.Com for Upcoming Events and Activities

The COVID-19 pandemic has created havoc for those wanting to take part in social events and activities in the area. Nonetheless, there are fun and entertaining programs available that practice social distancing and safe environments for those who want to get out of the house. For those who want to remain close to home, there are also virtual events and activities you can enjoy. Check out the website: visitwichita.com to find area concerts, museums, galleries, comedy, films and more.