



Wichita Chapter News

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



September 2021

President's Corner

Dear Members, Spouses and Families of the Wichita Chapter of MOAA, I trust you had an eventful, healthy, and safe summer and are anticipating a great year in our chapter for calendar year 2021-2022. I took a couple of out of town trips this summer. First, I went to Florida in June to visit in-laws and then our family went to South Dakota at the end of July. We were able to visit the Black Hills and Badlands National Park. We also visited the Minuteman National Museum and studied the history of the Minuteman II missile. The Minuteman II program is decommissioned but we still have 1500 Minuteman III missiles still in service.

Our first chapter brunch of the year is Sunday, 19 September and I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. We had almost 40 people attend our May brunch, and we enjoyed the presence of Kansas Council President, Michael Slusser, and his wife Lori. Michael commended our chapter on its continued commitment to MOAA and conducting in-person meetings. He also presented our chapter the 5 star chapter Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for our chapter webpage. Thank you again to Major Walt Nelson for maintaining such a wonderful web page.

In June, one of our USD 259 leadership instructors, Sgt Joseph Clay, suffered a personal tragedy when his house burned down during our JROTC summer camp here in Wichita. Fortunately, no one was injured, but the family dog was killed. Our chapter donated \$200 to help Sgt Clay and his family. Please keep Sgt Clay and his family in your prayers as they recover from this terrible tragedy. Our chapter also donated \$200 to help fund a Wichita JROTC cadet's attendance at Kansas Boys State.

In mid-August, I was apprised that our chapter has been awarded the **2021 Five-Star Chapter Award from the national MOAA**. We have won this award every year for the past decade or so. This award serves as a testament to the many chapter members who have invested time and resources into making this chapter the best of the best. I want to personally thank our present leadership, past leadership, and TROW for their outstanding support of our chapter objectives.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you on 19 September. If you have any friends or acquaintances who are active duty, retired, or former military officers, please invite them to join us. The chapter will pay for their meal. A breakfast buffet will be

served at a cost of \$16.00 per person. If possible, pay with a check due to our shortage of on hand cash for change. Plan to arrive at @1115. Take care and be safe.

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

New Officers to Lead TROW Through May 2022

Sue Bush has been elected the President of TROW. She replaces Karen Wohlwend, a beloved member of the chapter who fought a long and courageous battle with health issues. Sue reported that Karen remained strong in her faith until the end. Karen and her husband, Jim, had moved to the Kansas City area months ago to be near family during her last days. Jim is now residing in a memory care facility.

Other members elected to serve TROW include Sue Tanner, Vice-President: Twila Consentino, Secretary, and Ann Tibbetts, Treasurer. Sue Bush reports that the Chapter is fortunate to have others who will also contribute to the organization. They are Marilyn Beaver, Sue Berk, Pat DeVoss, Rita French, Susie Moran, Cindy Rodman, Jeri Shellner and Patti Sullivan. Congratulations to all who serve TROW and support MOAA. Sue also noted that Donna Morrison, a long-time member of TROW and MOAA, has moved to Overland Park to be near her family. She will be truly missed by both organizations. Also leaving the Chapter this month is Pat Snyder, a long-time member who has been very helpful to the organization says Sue. Pat will be moving to the east coast to be near her family.

TROW Continues to Support the McConnell School Supplies Program

During the last week of July TROW members assisted several hundred McConnell families as their children prepared for the new school year. The annual school give-away program helps parents by providing at no cost the supplies and accessories their children need for school. The items are generously donated by several retail businesses in the Wichita and Derby areas. TROW members donated more than 40 hours of community service to help distribute the supplies. TROW President Sue Bush praised the helpers who participated in this year's program. They include Sue Berk, Sue Bush, Twila Cosentino, Mareyn Giroux, Cindy Rodman, Jeri Shellner, Sue Tanner and Ann Tibbetts. Many thanks to the volunteers for a job well done.

TROW members met three times this summer for "friendship luncheons." They met at Drury Lane in Derby, Newport Grill in east Wichita and Spear's in west Wichita. There were 18 members and one guest at the Spear's meeting. The next TROW luncheon/meeting will be at 11:30 a.m., Sept. 17th at the Candle Club. Members will be called and given information on the menu and the program. TROW is always looking for new members to join the organization said Sue. Women whose spouses served in any branch of the U.S. military are eligible to join. The military member does not have to be retired, she said. "We encourage their spouses to be a part of our group."

Cadets From Derby High School AFJROTC Complete a Busy Summer

Col. Michael Dillard reported that many of the Air Force JROTC cadets at Derby spent their summer serving in the community. During June and July, six cadets volunteered over 500 community service hours to pass out meals during the Derby School District Free Summer Meals Program. The program served breakfast and lunch to children one through 18 years old. Cadets also marched in the annual Independence Day Parade in Derby. Another 12 cadets assisted during the Derby High enrollment programs July 28-29. They assisted in signing in parents of students enrolling this year. They also sanitized and distributed laptop computers to the parents to help their children complete some classroom requirements. Lastly, they conducted tours of the school for parents and students new to Derby High School.

During August, 3 cadets set up tables and chairs for the Oaklawn Community National Night Out celebration. And nine cadets volunteered at the Tanglewood Elementary School Welcome Back ice cream social. The cadets set up tables served ice cream and cleaned up after the event which was attended by 400 parents and students. There were 15 cadets who volunteered at the Park Hill Elementary School Welcome Back Block Party. They set up tables, a bouncing castle, and several activity stations. They also cleaned up following the event.

Colonel Dillard also reported that two cadets at Derby High were recently recognized for special achievements. Cadet John Goodner was selected for the Air Force JROTC Pilot Scholarship Program. He attended and successfully completed Pilot Training School at Oklahoma State University. He received his pilot's license on July 30th. Cadet Goodner also received an AFROTC Scholarship to attend Kansas State University where he will study aerospace engineering.

Cadet Jennifer Chhim was one of just 100 AFJROTC cadets selected for the Cyber Security Academy this summer. She was the only cadet selected from Kansas. She successfully completed the course and received her certification from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Be Sure to Read MOAA's August issue of *Military Officer Magazine*

The magazine is loaded with great features and articles. The cover story highlights the many missions and programs that National Guard members conduct in support of our country. Other features include a story of Cmdr. Victor Vescovo, USNR (Ret), as he explores the oceans depths and some of the world's highest peaks. The issue also features an interview with Brig. Gen. Twanda "Tia" Young, USA (Ret), who mentored young officers throughout her military career. The issue also covers a number of articles ranging from family matters, money talk to healthy living, and rest and recuperation (R&R) sites. Last but not least, National MOAA President Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), strongly advocates for Congress and the administration to ensure the Guard and Reserves are "taken care of commensurate with our active duty servicemembers." Gen. Atkins points out the many missions undertaken by our citizen-soldiers as they

provided support during a year of Covid-10 surges; protecting our nation's capital during the Jan. 6th siege and serving alongside active-duty personnel in Afghanistan. Be sure to pick up the August issue of *Military Officer Magazine*

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