



Wichita Chapter News



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

September 2022

President's Corner:

Dear Chapter Members: I know I told you in my last newsletter that I would write no more but here we go again. Because of the inability to find my successor, I agreed to stay as President through this season's first meeting. So, this will be my final President's Corner. In fact, it may be the last President's Corner in the long history of MOAA Wichita Chapter newsletters. As of right now, no one in our esteemed membership has indicated a willingness to perform the duties of President. If this continues to hold, I will have to make an announcement at the September regarding the future of our Chapter. Everyone on the Executive Council has served in a leadership role in our chapter and it is time for someone new to enter the Thunderdome. We cannot continue to rely on the same few people performing the duties in chapter leadership. I know all of you are busy and have outside commitments but consider that the last four chapter presidents (including myself) were working fifty hours per week at full-time jobs. Performing the duties of chapter leadership does take time, but if the membership wants the chapter to continue, someone in the membership will need to step up and demonstrate that desire by volunteering to be President.

Given all this, I do value each and every one of you and consider all of you to be friends of mine. So, if our meetings must come to an end, I want each of you to know that I will always hold you in my fondest memories and cherish the short time that we had together.

Our next and possibly final brunch is Sunday, September 25th. I recommend that you arrive between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM so that you can have time to eat before the program. Our guest speaker will be Michael Schwanke, the news anchor at KWCH. Thank you to Paul Inman for arranging this exciting presentation. The brunch cost is \$22.00, and I encourage you to write a check due to our shortage of cash for change. Remember that any first time

visitor to our chapter brunches who is eligible to join our chapter will receive a free meal along with a spouse.

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

September Luncheon Guest Speaker -- Michael Schwanke

Michael Schwanke will be our speaker at the Sept. 25th chapter business meeting. Schwanke anchors KWCH Eyewitness evening news. He is also a Factfinder 12 investigator. He has served at Channel 12 for 22 years, beginning as a general assignment reporter. He is a two-time Emmy Award winner. He is a native of Colby and a graduate of Fort Hays State University. He is married and has two children.

TROW News and Information

The next TROW luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m., Sept. 16 at the Scotch & Sirloin, 5325 E. Kellogg Dr. Attendees will order from the menu. Reservations are needed by Sept. 13. The guest speaker is **Jillian Carroll**, host of Good Day Kansas, weekdays on Channel 3. Jillian played soccer at the University of Northern Iowa where she earned a B.S. degree in elementary education. She taught elementary classes for 7 years in Kansas City, MO., and served as a Chief's cheerleader for six years. She did sports broadcasting for the Chiefs and worked as a digital host and sideline reporter where she earned her first Emmy Award. She is the daughter of a 26-year Navy veteran. She is an avid supporter of the U.S. Military.

TROW helps Airmen during the School Give-a-way Program

Members of TROW worked for five days during July helping airmen at McConnell get their children ready for the fall term during the annual school supply give-a-way program. Kate Gonzales, a community readiness consultant at the base said that 513 families were served during the week of July 25 – 29. Families were able to receive a wide array of school supplies such as backpacks, pens, pencils, crayons, tablets, glue sticks and an assortment of other items.

The program is offered through the collaboration of Dollar Tree and Operation Homefront. Several months prior to the give-a-way, Dollar Tree asks customers if they would like to donate money to help support airmen and their families as they get their children ready for school. The donations are then

used to buy the items given away. The program serves active duty, Guard, and Reserves at McConnell AFB. Ms. Gonzales said the military members enjoy the assistance and support provided by TROW members as they help the airmen navigate the wide assortment of available items.

The TROW volunteers were Sue Berk, Nancy Brace, Sue Bush and her granddaughter Lesley Perreault, Rita French, Phyllis Haught, Delores Inman and her husband Paul, Susie Moran, Cindy Rodman, Jeri Shellner and her husband Earl, Patti Sullivan, Sue Tanner, Anne Tibbets and Carol Zackary. A hearty thanks to all who participated in this wonderful community support program.

Resources for Surviving Spouses

By Renée Brunelle, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

The community of military spouses, encompassing all past and present, is a resilient group of individuals. The ability to change plans in a moment's notice is a skill acquired over years of experience. The other amazing characteristic of military spouses is that we support each other and share tools, benefits, and resources no matter how long we have known each other.

Here are four such resources to consider:

VA Aid and Attendance: Also known as housebound allowance, VA Aid and Attendance might be able to provide a monthly financial benefit to assist with personal care services. Financial and physical considerations need to be investigated. Local veteran services organizations are a great place to get neutral information and support.

Geriatric Care Managers: Hiring these professionals can be an unmatched option of support for seniors who do not have family members close. They are social workers for hire who can be on a retained contract or situational contract in case of emergency needs. Their experience can help you navigate insurance coverage, emergency services, or placement recommendations if you are looking into senior living locations.

Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney: Often attorneys will list that they offer estate and/or elder law specialties. This is an important area in that "what you don't know will hurt you." A board-certified elder law attorney has a higher level of training and expertise. Learn more through the National Elder Law Foundation.

Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES): This designation for realtors means that they have done advanced education for working with home buyers over the age of 50. Often, they have a network of additional businesses and services that will assist in making the real estate transaction as smooth as possible. Learn more through the SRES Council.

New TROW Officers for 2022-23

New TROW officers were elected at their May 2022 luncheon and will serve until May 2023. They are Sue Tanner, President; Cindy Rodman, Vice President; Patti Sullivan, Secretary; and Anne Tibbetts, Treasurer. Other board members include Susie Moran, Program; Jeri Shellner, Membership; Nancy Brace, Sunshine; Marilyn Beaver, Birthdays; Jeri Shellner, Newsletter,; Cindy Rodman Phone Communication; Patti Sullivan, Chaplain, and Sue Bush Philanthropy.