



MOAATM
 Military Officers Association of America
Southwest Illinois Chapter

*Eyes
 to the
 Skies*

February 2019

President’s Input

The issue of “taxing” military retirees is once again in the forefront of the budget discussions on Capitol Hill. Read more in the Legislative Update in this newsletter.

The Legal Office at Scott AFB is a mystery. If you think that, you missed a wonderful presentation at our January meeting by a couple of great paralegal assistants from that office. TSgt Quinton and TSgt Miklavic are available to help any ID card holder with some types of legal paperwork—Powers of Attorney, notary services, wills, and even review of other legal documents without any cost to the individual—but we also learned that you have to have an ID card that doesn’t have your Social Security number. Why? Because that indicates your ID card is the “older style” that is no longer used in DoD. You will need to get a card with a DoD ID number, which is what tracks you in the military paperwork system, including DEERS. If you need to get a new ID card, you can make an appointment with Pass & ID at the 375th Airlift Wing, the 126th Air Refueling Wing, or the 932nd Airlift Wing. Yes, all three are available to you for service. Walk-in service is also available, but you may have to wait in line.

Also, tax time is upon us, but the base is not offering free tax service this year. Last year, they saw only 4 people during the entire season, so this year it is not open to everyone. They will help people in grades E1 to E4 with the tax form. Just to emphasize this point, every DoD ID card holder, including surviving spouses, may use the free services at the base legal office. Don’t let your legal issues languish! Take advantage of this free service. But they cannot help a non-DoD ID holder (adult child) even if an ID card holder (such as a parent) brings them in.

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Treasurer’s Report for November 2018	
Checking Account Balance ...	\$1,185
Savings Account Balance	\$6,372
Certificates of Deposit	\$15,112
Total	\$22,669

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This Month's Program

For our February meeting, we're back at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. We'll meet at 6 pm for our social hour, and then enjoy a steak dinner buffet.

After dinner, we'll hear from Sarah Lambaria from the O'Fallon Garden Club.

9 February 2019

Dinner/Meeting

Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse, Scott AFB IL

Steak Dinner Buffet

Cash Bar

Social Hour: 6-7 pm, Dinner: 7 pm

Cost: \$26.00/person

Attire: Business Casual

Steak Dinner Buffet

USDA Prime Aged Steak
Baked Pasta
Baked or Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Chef's Vegetable
Caesar or Tossed Salad
Bread
Tea & Coffee
Dessert

Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
7 Mar 2019	Silver Creek Grill & Saloon*	Lunch Meeting, MOAA National Update
13 Apr 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Dinner Meeting
April 2019	Global Brew Tap House (O'Fallon)	Quarterly Happy Hour Meeting
11 May 2019	Ann Morey's Home	Annual Business Meeting
11 Jun 2019	TBD	TBD

*Note the location change for the March 2019 lunch/meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: For our March 2019 meeting, we'll be hosting MOAA's Program Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, LtCol Scott Wadle (USMC, Ret). We all look forward to meeting him and getting some face-to-face information about MOAA National.

President's Input (continued)

Back in the middle of December last year, I had the privilege of presenting Gold Bars to four about-to-be-commissioned second lieutenants who were graduating from the ROTC detachment at SIU Edwardsville. Our ROTC/JROTC liaison, CDR (ret) Tim Grout, USN, provided me with the encased bars and certificates to present to these four young men who are bound for service with the Army National Guard or active duty. Bradley W. Miller, Jon D. Thompson, John P. Thomas, and Lucas C. Smith. All eager young faces prepared to head off to their first assignments, start their training, and do their duty serving this great country.

Thank you for your support of our Chapter and activities. Also, for supporting the MOAA National objectives. Our service to the military community—currently serving, veteran, retiree, surviving spouse, active duty, Reserves, and National Guard—is critically important to ensure we continue to have a strong and viable force to secure our national objectives. These are the times that try men's souls. Keep serving. God bless you, our men and women in uniform, our President, and this great United States of America.

Benefits that military retirees have been promised are once again in the crosshairs. This broken record seems to continually play without respite. That's why supporting the work being done by MOAA is important to you and others in the military community. Here's what is going on...

A new report released in December by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) outlines 121 options to reduce our nation's deficit, and the easy target is military pay, benefits, and healthcare.



Among the options are the introduction of TRICARE for Life fees and reductions in basic allowance for housing. Congress is being asked at every turn, "how will you pay for any new spending required" in a new bill. Usually what happens is that every action within a specific program or department will fund the change that the bill supports. Why? The national debt is reaching critical mass and climbing, fueled by continued deficit spending. The CBO report cites the FY 2018 federal budget deficit totaled \$779 billion, raising our nation's debt to 78 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. So, all innovations require offsets instead of pulling from the Treasury. Two examples: first, within DoD, this is how TRICARE beneficiaries ended up paying for the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance. Likewise, an example from VA, the bill to support Blue Water Navy veterans includes proposed increases to VA Home Loan fees as the source of funds. Pitting one group of military and veterans against one another as a means for these earned and promised benefits has never been a strategy supported by MOAA, yet appears to be a continuing problem in 2019. The CBO options to reduce the deficit may gain traction as the administration and Congress wrestle with the mandate to pay for any changes to funding legislation. Military pay, benefits, and healthcare are often seen as funding sources for programs that support the military community but also other non-military programs. You can count on MOAA to oppose making beneficiaries carry the burden of the pay-for. Here are seven options that could be implemented if the CBO report is adopted.

- Cap increases in basic military pay for military service members
- Reduce Basic Allowance for Housing to 80 percent of average housing costs
- Introduce enrollment fees under TRICARE For Life
- Introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirement under TRICARE For Life
- Increase premiums for Medicare Part B
- Modify TRICARE enrollment fees and cost sharing for working-age military retirees
- End VA's Individual Unemployability payments to disabled veterans at the full retirement age for Social Security

Legislative News (continued)

- Key CBO recommendations:
 - An annual enrollment fee of \$485 for individual coverage and \$970 for family coverage could start in calendar year 2021.
 - Introducing minimum out-of-pocket requirements starting in 2022. In this proposal, TFL would not cover any of the first \$750 of an enrollee's cost-sharing payments under Medicare and would cover only 50 percent of the next \$6,750. Essentially, TFL beneficiaries would pay a maximum of \$4,125. In anticipation of TFL beneficiaries returning to the military treatment facilities (MTFs) to avoid these cost shares, the MTFs would be required to charge the same amount as civilian facilities would.

TRICARE Prime and Select Cost Sharing for Retirees Under Age 65

The CBO claims that health care has been among the fastest growing portions in the DoD's budget. However, by DoD's own numbers, it still remains a third of the personnel budget since 1980. By targeting working-age military retirees and claiming they are not paying their share, provides the rationale to abolish the current grandfathering originally established in the 2017 NDAA, and to push beneficiaries away from utilizing their earned benefits.

Key CBO recommendations (starting in 2021):

- TRICARE Prime - individual enrollment fees could increase to \$650 and family enrollment to \$1,300.
- TRICARE Select - individuals could pay an annual enrollment fee of \$485 and \$970 for a family. The annual deductible for an individual would be \$300 and \$600 for a family.

These cost shares would be tied to a national health expenditure index and not COLA. The total cost savings from these proposals is projected to be \$12.6 billion between 2020 and 2028.

ACT NOW: While the CBO report covers the next 10 years, it is important for you to connect with your members of Congress now. Visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center (<http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=493834>) to send a message, and be ready for recurring updates; enter your information and click "submit" to see the letter and a list of your legislators.

Under a new law signed by President Trump on New Year's Eve, military spouses now can choose to take their servicemember's state of legal residency without having physical presence in the state. The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), rolled together a number of individual bills that had been referred to the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees, including H.R. 282 - the Military Residency Choice Act, which was introduced by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) in January 2017.

Previously, only military spouses who shared the same state of legal residence with their servicemember were protected from changing their residency every PCS. The new law allows for military spouses to take their servicemember spouse's state of legal residency for voting and tax purposes regardless of their date of marriage and physical location - essentially inheriting their servicemember's residency, if they so choose.

The law is also useful for military spouses who have occupations that require state licenses. Changing state residency every PCS means that spouses have to change their state license to match their new residence. The cost and time to complete relicensing negatively impacts the employability of a military spouse. Allowing a spouse to maintain one residence during their servicemember's time in the military prevents the headache of getting relicensed and makes it easier to operate within interstate compacts for occupational licensure.

Legislative News (continued)

MOAA has supported this provision since its inception, and in March, submitted a statement for the record to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees outlining support for the then-bill. Read more on this at:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/New-Law-Affects-Military-Spouse-Voting.-Taxes.-and-Licensure.aspx>.

Other opportunities to reduce the budget deficit include options to eliminate more than 17,000 medical jobs across DoD. Senior defense officials deny that's the case, citing an “unwavering commitment” to improving medical readiness and quality of care. The plan to reduce by 13 percent the total medical force—reduction of almost 7,300 Army, nearly 5,300 Navy, and over 5,300 Air Force—would improve medical readiness. Sound counterintuitive? Claims are that the reduction will allow those billets to be repurposed as warfighters or combat-support skills to increase the lethality and size of operational units. Another goal is to deepen the workload of remaining medical billets at base hospitals and clinics to strengthen wartime medical skills and also to improve quality of care for beneficiaries, defense officials explained. Preliminary Navy documents show uniformed staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center falling by 534 personnel, with, for example, 82 taken from director of clinical support including 28 of 39 corpsmen, 5 of 12 radiological diagnosticians, 4 of 7 pharmacists, 8 of 19 pharmacy techs, and 9 of 45 medical lab technicians.

Read more on this at:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/More-Than-17,000-Uniformed-Medical-Jobs-Eyed-for-Elimination.aspx>.

Your help is needed to educate our elected leaders responsible for the legislation that governs the policies, practices, and funding of the benefits that we were promised as to the value and reasons why some of the proposals being considered are unfair to those who have served and potentially damaging to a strong, viable military force. Take action now! Visit the Legislative Action Center at <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0> and send your messages today.

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Chapter Officers	
President	Col (ret) Bob Norman
1st Vice President	Open
2nd Vice President	Open
Secretary	Lt Col (ret) Ann Morey
Treasurer	Col (ret) Dick Glogowski
Communications	Maj (ret) Rick Sunner
ROTC Liaison	CDR (ret) Tim Grout
Spouses Liaison	Narni Cahill

Call for Articles! If you want to submit an article for the Eyes to the Skies, just send the draft article to me at rick.sunner@gmail.com. Please keep these things in mind:

- Submit your article by the 10th of the month
- The article must be in MS Word or text format

We reserve the right to edit the article so it fits in the newsletter and meets our (and MOAA’s) editorial policy.

Editorial Policy

The Southwest Illinois Chapter Newsletter is published monthly by the Southwest Illinois Chapter which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.



SW IL Chapter Scholarship Program

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER
CWO 3 CHARLES E NALLEY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Southwest Illinois Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), in accordance with the Association's goal to furthering higher education, will award a \$1,000.00 scholarship each academic year. The scholarship may be used by the winner for his/her tuition, books, or general college expenses.

ELIGIBILITY: The applicant must be a high school senior or a currently enrolled undergraduate, full-time student of an accredited college or university in the award year. The applicant must be a child or grandchild of a current dues paying member for a minimum of one year in the Southwest Illinois Chapter of MOAA. Scholarship winner must be enrolled and attending the college by 30 September of the award year. Students that apply for the CWO3 Charles E. Nalley Scholarship may not apply for the JROTC Freedom Scholarship also offered by this Chapter.

AWARD: The scholarship will be awarded based on leadership qualities, ability, academic merit, character, and sincerity of purpose in reaching his/her goals.

SUBMISSION: An application is attached. Complete all items and forward the application, transcripts, and other required information to:

Southwest Illinois MOAA
PO Box 735
O'Fallon, IL, 62269
Attn: Ann Morey

THE PACKAGE MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN 1 Mar 19.

SELECTION: Award winner will be announced in May of the of the application year. Selected students may be awarded the Nalley scholarship only one time.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP: The award will be sent to the college of enrollment upon the Chapter's receipt of verification of enrollment in good standing at an accredited college/university. Winners will receive further instructions.

Direct any questions to Ann Morey, 618-628-0286 or ram204@att.net. Thank you.

Cheryl and Ann
Southwest Illinois MOAA Scholarship Committee

The 2019 USO/FISHER HOUSE DONATIONS DRIVE

By Nick Wartonick

Campaign Profile

Our chapter's 2019 drive has or must have these features, qualities, efforts and aspects to end this year's campaign in an over-the top victory:

- The **official start of the campaign** was at the **Thursday, January 10** chapter meeting. If you have not already contributed or started your outside effort, you must at least be thinking about doing so.
- The campaign will be of **only two months duration, ending** at the **Saturday, March 9** chapter meeting.
- The **first goal is to exceed** the nearly **\$5,000** of combined contributions achieved last year. This means the **chapter membership must provide at least \$3,000** in personal cash or check contributions. The **remaining \$2,000 must be gathered by chapter members** from sources outside the chapter. In truth, we should not have any ceilings on how much we are going to try to collect from whatever sources.
- The **second goal is to have all chapter members make individual contributions**, whether you are able to attend chapter meetings or not. No member should think he or she is exempt. This campaign is our chapter's cause and our chapter's pledge to continually support those who serve us. Give as much as you can.
- The **third goal is to have** as many **chapter members** as possible **reach out** to others outside the chapter to augment our total collections. Collect as much as you can.
- To be consistent, please have **separate checks** made out to **USO of Missouri** or to **St. Louis Fisher House**. Give or mail the checks to Ann Morey at 811 North Lincoln Avenue, O'Fallon, IL 62269 or to Nick Wartonick at 7342 Timberpoint Court, Fairview Heights, IL 62208.
- If anyone desires to donate or to collect from others individual or bulk items as asked for on the separate Wish Lists of the USO and Fisher House, please do so, but please coordinate your efforts with Ann Morey. She will provide the Wish Lists, and she will both guide and help you.
- Last year we made our theme **"DO MORE, DO BETTER!"** Let's keep that theme, recalling the "more" is your efforts, and the "better" is the expected result. Because of who we are supporting, we cannot fail to do our very best.

Please dig deep into your hearts and wallets. Thank you.

Ann Morey (618-628-0286, ram204@att.net)

Nick Wartonick (618-628-0858, wartonick-59@charter.net)

DID YOU KNOW.....

Illinois now has a veteran's designation to be put on your driver's license or a state issued ID card. The driver's license or ID card can then be used as proof of military service and in some cases may be used to obtain military/veteran discounts. Just take your DD form 214 to the Illinois Veteran's Department Office and they will stamp a copy. Then take the stamped/verified copy to the driver's license renewal office. If you do this when your license is up for renewal there is no cost. In between renewal times, it will cost you \$5.00 to have the change made. The Illinois Department of Veterans is at 4519 W Main Street, Belleville, IL. Their phone number is 618-233-5140 and I suggest you call for their hours of operation.

Reference: Themilitarywallet.com. This website has a lot of good information.

Have a good day,

Ann Morey

Southwest Illinois Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 735
O'Fallon IL 62269

Meeting Announcement

This month's meeting will be held on Saturday, 9 February 2019 at the Cardinal Creek Golf Course Clubhouse on Scott AFB. (See Program News for details.) Cost for the meal will be **\$26.00**.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWIL MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation deadline (mail, e-mail, or phone call received by): 4 Feb 2019.

E-mail to swimoaa@charter.net, or complete this form and mail it to: Southwest Illinois MOAA, P.O. Box 735, O'Fallon IL 62269 **to be received by the deadline**. Alternatively, phone Dick Glogowski at 618-624-6115.

Number of Reservations Desired: _____

Member's Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____