



Eyes to the Skies

President's Input

Everyone likes to travel, right? Did you know that MOAA offers vacations to members? And it's not one of those "fly-by-night" companies. This one has been around for 100 years....since 1918. Let's face it, everyone wants a great deal and not to have to give up one's life savings to see a special place. MOAA Vacations offers trips and tours through Collette travel agency. They offer periodic savings (currently \$500 per person using code MOAASAVINGS) and if you mention your MOAA member benefit, you could get an additional \$50-\$100 off per person. You can find out more at Collette.com or call them at (800) 611-3361.

Here's an article from last year, that I thought might be worthy of resurrecting.

(continued on page 3)

Storming the Hill

Our very own Col (ret) Richard Smith participated in the 2018 MOAA Storming the Hill advocacy event.



Col Smith with Ms. Jessica Bernton, Legislative Director for Rep Brad Schneider, IL10 (D)



Ms. Maggie Casteleyn (fellow Stormer), Rep Krishnamoorthi, IL-08 (D), Col Smith

Treasurer's Report, May 2018

Checking Account Balance	\$1,166
Savings/Scholarship Balance ..	\$7,249
CDs	\$14,998
Total	\$23,413

Inside this issue:

President's Input	1
Treasurer's Report	1
Programs	2
Legislative Update	4
Chapter Officers	6
State/Local/Chapter Veteran News	7
Meeting Announcement	8

Program News

This Month's Program

Tuesday, 5 Jun 2018

St Louis Cardinals Baseball

Busch Stadium

5:00 pm, meet at Cardinal Express

Cost: \$41.00 (includes \$12.00 in Cardinal Bucks)

First Pitch is 7:15 pm

For our last meeting before the summer break, we're going to watch the Cards beat the Astros! Let's meet at the Cardinal Express Pickup Area at the St Clair Square Mall (next to the water tower) and ride to the game together. Then we'll enjoy a meal at the ballpark before watching the game.

Reservation Deadline: 25 May 2018

Call/E-Mail Dick Glogowski at 618-624-6115/swimooa@charter.net

(The reservation deadline is earlier than normal to give us time to get good seats. Hope to see you there!)

Attire: Uniform of the Day (aka, your favorite Cardinals Wear)

Please help me congratulate Tom Shively as the winner of the May Easter Egg contest. He was the first person to correctly tell me the exact locations of the two hidden images and what they were. He wins one free ticket to the 5 June Cardinals game. Congratulations Tom!

By the way, the two hidden images were:

1. Eyes in the 'y' in our newsletter title (Eyes to the Skies).
2. Bunny to the left of the zero in '1110' in the "Court Rules Chronic Pain is a VA Disability" article on page 4.

Menu

Busch Stadium Concessions — Use the \$12.00 in Cardinal Bucks to purchase food and beverages.



Thanks Ann for hosting the chapter for the Business Meeting!

Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
Sep 2018	Fletcher's Kitchen & Tap (tentative)	Chapter Kickoff & Social

President's Input (from page 1)

Need Medical Advice Late at Night? Call the Nurse Advice Line

It's midnight, your spouse is deployed and your toddler's fever is rising. The last thing you want to do is load your other sleeping children into the car for a long night in the ER. Should you wait it out until morning? Give another dose of fever reducing medication? If only you could talk with a medical professional for advice.

Thanks to the free Military Health System Nurse Advice Line (NAL), that medical professional is just a phone call away at 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273), option 1.

Registered nurses (including pediatric nurses) answer roughly 1,750 calls each day on the NAL. These professionals help stateside TRICARE beneficiaries decide what course of action they should take. To date, the NAL has helped over 1.5 million callers.

When you call the NAL (1-800-TRICARE, option 1), the nurse will:

- Check your DEERS eligibility
- Ask questions about your medical situation
- Assess if you need to see a health care provider and determine what level of care is best

In many cases, the nurse will tell you how to care for your issue on your own. Common reasons for calling the NAL include fever, rashes, colds, abdominal pain, and the flu. Please remember that for the nurse to assess a beneficiary's medical condition, the beneficiary will need to be present either on the phone or with the parent or caregiver.

If needed, the nurse will help you find the closest emergency room, the hospital department that provides emergency services to patients who need immediate medical attention or urgent care center. He or she can also help you schedule a next-day appointment at a military hospital or clinic, if available. If you are enrolled to a military hospital or clinic, the NAL will even send a note to your primary care team to let them know how you are doing.

The NAL isn't a substitute for emergency treatment and not meant for emergency advice. If you have a medical emergency, call 911 or go the nearest emergency room.

When you or your loved ones are sick or in need of health care advice, remember the NAL is available, 24 hours a day. To call the NAL, dial 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273) and select option 1. The NAL is available to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the U.S., except those enrolled in US Family Health Plan. Check out the web page at <https://tricare.mil/ContactUs/CallUs/NAL>.

See you in September! God bless you.

Letter from the Editor. It's been a pleasure to help deliver the chapter's Eyes to the Skies this year. Hopefully you've gleaned useful information from the newsletter, and maybe had some fun.

The next issue will hit the streets sometime in August. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, or have an article you'd like to see in the newsletter, please e-mail me at rick.sunner@gmail.com.



Federal Legislative News



As you probably are aware, this time of year is when Congress is working on the next year's budget. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has gone through the House Armed Services Committee (HASC). The following article from James F. Naughton provides details.

5 Things to Keep an Eye on During Defense Bill Debate

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) began its annual defense authorization bill markup May 9, a hearing that has included a range of personnel and benefits issues. Here are five things on MOAA's radar:

Active duty pay raise: In late April, the HASC Military Personnel Subcommittee supported the administration's request for a 2.6-percent pay increase. The proposal matches projected private-sector wage growth in 2019. The pay raise would be the largest increase since 2010.

TRICARE: The subcommittee was silent on any new health care fees for TRICARE beneficiaries. It did, however, include a provision prohibiting DoD from closing or limiting services in any military treatment facility as it transfers administration to the Defense Health Agency from the respective service secretary.

Housing Allowances: Subcommittee members blocked scheduled cuts to housing allowances (BAH). The subcommittee also included language citing concerns about the impact of BAH cuts to military housing. For troops and families stationed on base, cuts to BAH could result in cuts to services such as trash pickup or delays in responding to emergency work orders.

Military Survivors: Servicemembers enrolled at less than full coverage in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) will be covered automatically at the full \$400,000 benefit. Because servicemembers get reimbursed for their SGLI premiums when deployed to a combat zone, the change comes at no cost to servicemembers. The subcommittee did not include language to eliminate the widows tax, the dollar-for-dollar deduction of DoD's Survivor Benefit Plan from the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. MOAA is looking for lawmakers to file an amendment to eliminate the widows tax.

Concurrent Receipt: The draft text of the defense bill currently does not contain language to expand concurrent receipt. In April, MOAA members from across the country visited legislators on Capitol Hill to tell Congress to end the deduction of service-earned retirement pay from VA disability compensation. MOAA is looking for lawmakers to file an amendment to include language to expand concurrent receipt.

The final test for this version of the NDAA comes on May 21 when the bill goes to the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). This version needs to be completed before the Summer break in August.

And speaking of Summer break, that's the time—especially during an election year like this—when our legislators return to their home state or district and visit the constituents. And likewise, the constituents can visit their legislators. Our congressman, the Honorable Mike Bost, has done an outstanding job of supporting military and veteran issues. In fact, Congressman Bost is a member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, serving as Chairman on the House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and also as a member of the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He also serves on several House Caucuses, including the Congressional Air Force Caucus. He well represents our district.

Have you experienced unexpected increases in TRICARE fees? These increases resulted from DoD's unilateral decision to change its fee schedules from a percent-of-cost model to flat-rate fees. These structural fee changes disregard the intention of the 2017 NDAA, which prescribed current military members, veterans, and families of both were to be grandfathered from health care cost-share increases. MOAA feels that DoD's lack of transparency when it changed the TRICARE fee structure, resulting in large fee hikes, breaks faith

with currently serving families and those who have served full careers. The quality and value of the military health care benefit should reflect the extraordinary sacrifices of military service as the prepaid premium for their earned benefits. Health care for military beneficiaries should be a top-tier benefit. Managing costs of health care and proportioned increases indexed to COLA are appropriate. Conversely, arbitrary increases of a disproportionate nature to generate funds for other purposes, and 67% to 173% increases are nothing but disproportionate. Changes that show how the new fees raise costs for families:

- Retiree TRICARE Prime copayments: Copayments range from 67% to 173% higher than 2017 Prime retiree copayments in select categories.
- Active duty family and retiree TRICARE Select copayments: DoD used a provision in the policy to restructure the former TRICARE Standard/Extra cost shares, into what it described as an improved flat-rate copayment structure, touted as being more predictable for beneficiaries. The result is increased out-of-pocket costs, which are inconsistent with private-sector PPOs and have been detrimental to many military families and retirees who rely on TRICARE Select for coverage.
- Mental health visits considered specialty care: This change generates significantly higher out-of-pocket costs than under the previous TRICARE Extra — higher than many civilian plans. These TRICARE Select costs create barriers to mental health care access.
- TRICARE pharmacy copayments: The copayments have doubled and tripled. For some, a \$7 increase from \$0 for a generic prescription can be tolerated; however, for those on a fixed income and receiving several generics and other specialty medications, it is costly — and costs will increase at rates beyond the COLA in the future.
- The effects of cost-share increases: Many beneficiaries have become overburdened quickly under these new copayments. While an occasional copayment of \$30 or \$40 for a specialty visit is not a financial strain for many, an active duty family with one or more special needs children or adults with multiple medical issues requiring many more appointments per week will see an overwhelming increase in costs. Hitting catastrophic caps will become more of a norm than an exception.

At the earliest opportunity, MOAA intends to find out how much revenue was gained from these changes and what those funds were used for. See more at: [http://www.moaa.org/uploadedFiles/Pages/Storming_2017\(1\)/Issue%20Paper%20on%20TRICARE%20Fees.pdf](http://www.moaa.org/uploadedFiles/Pages/Storming_2017(1)/Issue%20Paper%20on%20TRICARE%20Fees.pdf)

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2018 MOAA Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to announce that we have two winners for the Freedom Scholarship. We had no applicants for the Charles Nalley Scholarship. As always, the competition was tough and our reviewers had their work cut out for them. A big thank you to Bob Kaufman, Steve and Kim Dalrymple, and Gary Machovina for reviewing the packages.

Our first winner is Megan Barbee, from the Columbia High School JROTC program where she is the Corps Commander. She plans to become a mechanical engineer and an Air Force Officer.

Our second winner is Sam Kelley, from the Mascoutah JROTC unit. In his senior year, Sam has served as the Vice Corps Commander during the first semester and Chief Support Officer for the second semester. Sam plans to major in architecture and then become an Air Force Officer.

Congratulation to all of the applicants! Ann Morey

2018 MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards

Each year SWIMOOA recognizes an outstanding junior at the local high school AFJROTC Units and the Army ROTC Unit at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This year we were proud to recognize the following individuals chosen by their instructors for demonstrating exceptional potential for military leadership; good academic standing; high moral character; and a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country.



2018 JROTC MOAA Medal Awardees

- Alton High School – Leticia Caruthers
- Cahokia High School – Stephen Owens
- Dupou High School – Hannah Vaughan
- Mascoutah High School – Maddison Kelley
- O’Fallon Township High School – Hannah Raby



2018 ROTC MOAA Medal Awardee

- SIUE – Cole Strohmeier

SWIMOOA also presented Gold Bars to eleven new Army 2nd Lieutenant’s at their graduation rehearsal on 3 May.

- William W. Banks
- Devin T. Berry
- Harrison L. Goldberg
- Lauren A. Grossen
- David B. Jackstadt
- Samuel E. Lutchman
- Guisel L. Marmolejo
- Joshua A. Merriman
- Jacob S. Montagnani
- Sean C. Peters
- Jeffrey S. Telford



Chapter Officers	
President	Col (ret) Bob Norman
1st Vice President	Open
2nd Vice President	Maj (ret) Rick Sunner
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

State and Local Veteran News (www2.illinois.gov/veterans)

- Illinois Bicentennial “Honor 200” will recognize veterans all across the state who go above and beyond service to their fellow Veterans and Communities
 - To nominate a veteran for this recognition go to: www.il.gov/veterans/.../Honor-200-Veterans
- State Benefits Information, <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/default.aspx>
- Illinois Joining Forces, <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/IllinoisJoiningForces.aspx>
 - Statewide network of veteran/military serving organizations ... collaborating in person/online to help service members/veterans/families identify/marshal resources/services available to them throughout the state
- Illinois Veterans Homes, <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/homes/Pages/Default.aspx>
 - Four Illinois Veterans’ Homes, run by Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs (IDVA), fully staffed, provides quality long-term skilled care and services to resident members
 - Volunteers from veteran service organizations/local community provide additional services/activities
- Special Features, <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/features/Pages/default.aspx>

Sad News — our chapter suffered another loss.

Marjorie Ann Kellogg, nee Sprang, 85, of Belleville, Illinois, born Thursday, January 5, 1933, in Kenton, OH, passed away Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Marjorie was a member of Christ United Methodist Church, Fairview Heights, Illinois. She was very active with the church and the United Methodist Women’s Group and the Quilting Group. She also volunteered for the Red Cross over the years and various other organizations; she was a real-estate agent, a homemaker who took care of 4 kids while her husband was traveling with his duties in the Army. She was an avid gardener, seamstress, loved to cross-stitch, crochet and loved traveling with Kenneth after his retirement. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth E. Kellogg.



A Memorial Service was held at 11:00 am, Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Christ United Methodist Church, with Rev. Shane Bishop officiating. Private interment was held at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri.

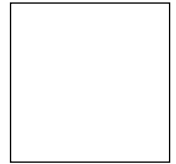
Memorials may be made to the Christ United Methodist Church, Fairview Heights, IL.

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.



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



Meeting Announcement

Our June Meeting will be a Cardinals Game on **Tuesday, 5 Jun 2018**, at Busch Stadium. (See Program News for details.) Pay \$41.00 at the door.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWI MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation Deadline (Mail received by, email, or phone call): 25 May 2018 (note the earlier deadline)

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. (*E-mail or phone calls are preferred.*)

Number of Reservations Desired:

Member's Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____