



MOAA™

Military Officers Association of America
Southwest Illinois Chapter

*Eyes
to the
Skies*

September 2018

President's Input

Our condolences to Col (ret) Jack Peters on the passing of his wife, Diane, on August 6. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jack and his family at this time of loss.

We are at the start of another Chapter year of glorious opportunities! This year is a mid-term election. Okay, not for us here in the Metro East, but several states and communities are holding elections. And speaking of elections, did you know that the Tricare Dental Plan is going away at the end of the year? So, if you were a plan participant and are still interested in keeping your dental coverage, you'll have an opportunity to elect to participate in the Federal employee dental program during the open season which will start in November. We'll continue to watch the presses to provide you with information about signing up.

Did you know that being a MOAA member can save money on a college test prep course? Premium and Life members of MOAA can access a semester-length program (120 lessons, 11 hours of instruction, 45 hours of classroom work, etc.) for their kids, valued at \$350 for only \$14.99. MOAA has partnered with eKnowledge for this exclusive discount. For more information, see the August 2018 edition of *Military Officer*.

Lastly, please vote in the election of the next MOAA Board of Directors. CAPT (ret) Jim Murphy of the West Suburban Chapter is in the running for a position on the Board. You should have received the ballot with the August 2018 edition of *Military Officer*.

I look forward to another great year of supporting the community and providing interesting programs for our members. Thank you for being part of our wonderful organization, keep our elected leaders focused correctly through your letters and e-mails, and for your service now and in the past. God bless you and the United States of America.

Congratulations & Thank You!

You helped our chapter win the MOAA 4-Star Level of Excellence Award once again.



Thanks and Keep up the good work!

Treasurer's Report for August 2018

Checking Account Balance	\$2,182
Savings Account Balance	\$4,423
Certificates of Deposit	\$15,048
Total	\$21,653

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For our first meeting after the summer break, we're meeting at Fletcher's Kitchen & Tap in Belleville. This meeting will be an afternoon casual affair. Please consider inviting a fellow officer you may know who is not currently a chapter member. We'll hold a short business meeting during the event.

Program News

This Month's Program

Saturday, 8 September 2018, 4 to 6 pm

2018-19 Chapter Kickoff Social

Fletcher's Kitchen and Tap

6101 West Main, Belleville IL

Heavy Appetizers

\$24.00/person

Attire: Summer Attire

Menu: Heavy Appetizers

Spinach/Artichoke Dip
Sausage & Cheese Tray
Chips & Salsa
Caesar Salad

Chicken Salad Sandwiches
Tenderloin Sandwiches
Asian Chicken Skewers
Fruit Tray

Choice of: soft drinks, tea, coffee

Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
13 Oct 2018	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Dinner Meeting
10 Nov 2018	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Dinner Meeting
8 Dec 2018	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Annual Christmas Social/Scholarship Auction
10 Jan 2019	Hop House (Tentative)	Lunch Meeting
9 Feb 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Dinner/Valentine Social
7 Mar 2019	Horseshoe Restaurant (Tentative)	Lunch Meeting
13 Apr 2019	Cardinal Creek Golf Course	Dinner Meeting
11 May 2019	Venue TBD	Annual Business Meeting
11 Jun 2019	TBD	TBD

ELECTIONS

Mid-Term elections will take place on November 6, 2018. The entire House of Representatives is up for election. Please be sure to get out and perform your civic duty. There will likely be early voting opportunities as the date grows closer. We'll try to keep you up to speed on available locations and times.



FY19 NDAA

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was swiftly passed in 20 years, passing overwhelmingly with bipartisan support - a vote of 87-10 in the Senate and 359-54 in the House. The \$717 billion national defense budget rebuilds the military, increases lethality, strengthens our alliances and partnerships and reforms the way DoD does business.

Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis was pleased and grateful for the strong commitment of Congressional members on both sides of the aisle, demonstrating the deep and abiding bipartisan support our military enjoys.

The approved bill:

- Increases the military's authorized active-duty end strength by 15,600
- Raises service member pay by 2.6 percent - the highest in nine years
- Recognizes the importance of modernizing and strengthening the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to more effectively guard against the risk to national security posed by certain types of foreign investment
- Provides waiver relief to key U.S. partners and allies from certain Russian-related sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act
- Strengthens cyber defenses, prioritizes U.S. Cyber Command readiness and affirms the cyber authorities of the Secretary of Defense

DoD hopes to be able to work with Congress in the same strong bipartisan spirit to fund defense priorities before the end of the fiscal year. Read the FY19 NDAA at:

<https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/FY19%20NDAA%20Executive%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>.

TRICARE

Contrary to survey results in December 2017, the latest TRICARE survey taken by MOAA confirms that beneficiaries' overall satisfaction has decreased across all categories, to include provider choice, access to providers, and especially cost of medications. With over 8,500 respondents, increased costs seemed to be a major issue. Beneficiaries who identified themselves as spouses, enlisted, and either using TRICARE Prime or Select were more likely than all others to cancel or postpone treatment out of cost concerns. Only when they need medical attention do most beneficiaries understand the importance and size of the increases and new fees. TRICARE for Life respondents continue to show the greatest overall satisfaction with their health care.

- Positively, 80 percent of TRICARE for Life beneficiaries were either very satisfied or mostly satisfied. Conversely, only 50 percent of those using TRICARE Select were very or mostly satisfied, and 28 percent were very to mostly dissatisfied.
- Trends in satisfaction with the cost of medications have decreased. Previously 42 percent were very satisfied with the cost of their medication. The new data shows only 28 percent remain very satisfied. A full 22 percent are either very or mostly dissatisfied.

Legislative News (continued)

- Over 50 percent of beneficiaries responded that they were somewhat to very concerned about being able to afford their medications. This is a dramatic shift from previous responses when beneficiaries were largely unconcerned about affording their prescriptions.
- Specialty appointments were the most frequently canceled or postponed appointment type as reported by 62 percent of those who had done it. Physical therapy and mental health appointments were the most reported sub-types.

Example of comments:

“Because the copays went from \$12 to \$30, it is hard for me to afford therapies for my 4-year-old son. He is supposed to receive speech therapy twice a week and occupational therapy once a week. Under the old way it, was \$36 every week. Now I am paying \$90 every week. We only do speech and occupational once a week because it has put a financial strain on us. It is hard to provide the adequate care for my son who has special needs that should be met.”

Most beneficiaries' view their TRICARE benefit as one for which they are paying more and receiving less. Whether it is for narrower provider networks, higher costs for medications, and much greater copayments for medical appointments - beneficiaries are experiencing an erosion to their earned health care benefit.

Over 17,000 MOAA members responded to MOAA's call to Take Action regarding TRICARE fee increases and it turned the tide of sentiment in the Congress! In an article for MOAA, CAPT Kathryn M. Beasley, USN (Ret), Director of Government Relations, Health Affairs, credits these messages, along with the groundswell of support from The Military Coalition, with halting the provision to end grandfathering and raise TRICARE fees for retirees under age 65 from making it into the final FY19 NDAA bill. Many in Congress in the Senate Armed Services Committee, House Armed Services Committee, and Military Personnel Subcommittee, saw these increases as an erosion of military beneficiaries' earned benefits, which have been earned through careers of service and sacrifice. The critical exclusion from the legislation is an enormous success and excellent example of what MOAA's Powerful Voice and leadership does for the military community. Thank your representatives in Congress for standing with us, with a MOAA suggested letter (<http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=487676>). For your information, Senator Durbin voted YES, Senator Duckworth **did not vote**, and the only NO votes among the Representatives were in the 4th and 9th District.

ACTIVE ILLINOIS LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 3193: Amends the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act. Provides that a non-veteran spouse shall only have the same priority for admission to a Veterans Home as a veteran if the non-veteran spouse and his or her veteran spouse are admitted at the same to live together at the Veterans Home. Makes corresponding changes in provisions concerning the admission of a spouse to the Illinois Veterans Homes at Anna or Quincy. **Status: sent to Governor on June 19, 2018.**

Senate Bill 2306: Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities shall be prorated if the person qualifying for the exemption does not occupy the qualified residence as of January 1 of the taxable year. Effective immediately. **Status: sent to Governor on June 21, 2018.**

House Bill 4320: Amends the Property Tax Code and the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act. In provisions granting exemptions for veterans with disabilities, provides that, if the veteran has received the same protected evaluation rating and level of disability for 20 or more years by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, then that veteran need not annually reapply for the exemption. Effective immediately. **Status: Sent to House Rules Committee on April 13, 2018.**

Legislative News (continued)

House Bill 4781: Amends the Higher Education Veterans Service Act. Requires a public college or university to use its best efforts to hire a veteran of the armed services as the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services. Effective immediately. **Status: sent to Governor on June 29, 2018.**

House Bill 4332: Amends the Illinois Identification Card Act. Provides that, for purposes of issuing an identification card with a veteran designation under the Act, the acceptable forms of proof an applicant may provide includes a Department of Defense form DD-2 (Retired), an identification card issued under the federal Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015, or a United States Department of Veterans Affairs summary of benefits letter. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Makes conforming changes in regards to a driver's license with a veteran designation. **Status: sent to Governor on June 22, 2018.**

House Bill 4723: Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities carries over to the benefit of the veteran's surviving spouse if the veteran resided outside of the State but otherwise qualified for the exemption at the time of his or her death and the surviving spouse relocates to Illinois after the death of the veteran. Effective immediately. **Status: newly introduced.**

SW IL Chapter Membership Drive

This summer, chapter members Co Soule, Dale Yonker, and Richard Smith drafted a letter to all National MOAA members living in our area who aren't yet members of our chapter. They mailed over 1,400 letters to those prospective members, resulting in 45 new members to our chapter.

Please thank Co, Dale, and Richard for their dedication to the SW IL Chapter and to MOAA!

The SW IL Chapter welcomes the following new members to our chapter--**WELCOME!**

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

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.



State/Local News

Visit <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/pages/default.aspx> for details about these and other IL programs.

Chapter News

I am Nick Wartonick, who co-chaired the 2018 campaign with Ann Morey. First and foremost, I want to thank the chapter members who rose to the challenge, especially as the campaign was winding down, to make this year's USO and Fisher House donations effort very successful - an all-time high in combined monetary contributions of \$4,955. At the start of the campaign in January, I wrote, "Could our chapter raise our total money contributions to over \$5,000?" WOW! I'll concede, if you will, the goal was achievable, and it was achieved (wink - maybe short only one check) if we round up to the nearest thousand. Anyhow, for a job well done, congratulations to us!

The other important half of this year's successful campaign was the collection of the many thousands of items on the WISH LISTS of both the USO and Fisher House – no doubt, also an all-time high of bulk item contributions. As you may know, multiple trips in multiple vehicles were required to complete the deliveries to both organizations. Congratulations to Ann and many thanks to her, those who helped her, and of course to all the outside contributors.

I apologize for my tardiness in acknowledging our chapter's total accomplishments in this year's drive, but I missed the May edition of "Eyes in the Sky" and the June edition was low on space. However, it is never too late to repeat a success story and never too early to start planning and preparing for even greater success next year. But how? Here are a few ideas, and if you have any additional ideas, please let Ann and/or me hear them. Last year's campaign dragged on for over three months, so we will shorten this year's campaign to about six weeks. Yet only a large surge in the last two weeks of the campaign in both monetary contributions by chapter members and bulk goods from outside contributors made the campaign the success it was. We all need to be more proactive and to encourage those helping us to be more responsive more quickly.

Ann and I want you to become more involved in solicitations from persons and organizations outside the chapter (consider friends, neighbors, clubs, teams, social organizations and your place of worship) for both monetary and bulk items. Ann's efforts and mine both at several area high schools and at St. Michael's are proof positive of what a huge difference individual initiatives can make. Every member should start planning now on participating in such an all-out effort.

There is another vital point to be made. Throughout the year, I receive numerous requests from the USO, both national and local, for contributions. I do not receive any from Fisher House. I ignore those random requests, as I make my one annual donation to the USO (and also to Fisher House) via our chapter's annual drive. You may desire to do otherwise, but I urge you to consolidate your donations to our chapter's annual drive to maximize as much as possible our chapter's contributions. Please consider this approach.

Again, congratulations and personal thanks to all who the 2018 donations drive a huge success not only for the USO and Fisher House but also, more importantly, for our active duty military people and all veterans, especially those who sustained injuries.

Ann and I are looking forward to a magnificent campaign in 2019.

Member News

Diane Lou Peters, nee Scarff, 73, of Belleville, Ill., born August 25, 1944, passed away quietly on Monday, August 6, 2018, at Memorial Hospital surrounded by her family. She worked for a period at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant near Burlington, Iowa where she assembled fuses for Claymore Mines. Additionally, she spent a brief time at STAAT Printing Company in Mount Pleasant where she assembled award ribbons such as those used at the Iowa State Fair.



Following a brief engagement, she married First Lieutenant Jack Peters February 14, 1975 (Valentine's Day). During the first few years of her marriage, she worked in banking as line teller and senior vault teller.

Over the 27 years of Jack and Diane's (here's a little ditty) Air Force adventure, she would persevere through 12 changes of station and the numerous TDYs and deployments that go along with being a military wife. She managed the home front and supported the military communities she lived in by volunteering at base thrift shops and assumed leadership positions in various Officers' Spouse Clubs. Additionally, she was at the forefront of unit officer and enlisted wives' groups during Jack's time in Command. Following their retirement from the Air Force, the couple returned to Belleville where Diane soon became involved with the O'Fallon Woman's Club. It was an integral part of her life, and she volunteered to serve in several leadership positions within the organization.

Surviving to cherish her memory are her husband of 43 years, Jack Peters; son, Michael (Nathalie) Ridinger of Montreal, Canada; step-daughter, Nancy (Sherwood) Smith of Milford, Kans.; five sisters, three brothers, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Donations are suggested to The Leukemia And Lymphoma Society. Condolences may be offered at www.wfh-ofallon.com.
Published in Belleville News-Democrat on Aug. 8, 2018

WELCOME -- The SW IL Chapter welcomes the following new members to our chapter!

COL Eileen & James Berlin Patricia & Larry Berry Capt Lloyd & Joie Boeke CDR Gary Boo Col Edward & Angie Breen CWO3 Ancil & Jamie Brown Col John & Debroah Calcaterra Lt Col Valerie & Mark Clegg Lt Col Michael & Debra Clover Lt Col Miguel & Matilde Cotto Col Michael & Yvonne Doonan LTC William & Angela Ford Sharon Gage Lt Col Kay & Robert Gaines CAPT Craig & Kathleen Galloway LTC Byron & Joan Gregery	Lt Col Rodney & Jean Hannes Col Cheryl & Chuck Heimerman Lt Col Phillip & Madeline Henning Lt Col Diane & Roy Hobbs Col Roy & Diane Hobbs Lt Col Darol & Julia Holsman Col James & Alice Howe COL Charles & Gail Jorgenson Lt Col Ed & Lelin Joslin LTC Thomas & Joan Kazmierczak Col Thomas & Debbie Klinzar Melanie Killian Maj Sabrina Luttrell Lt Col Michael & Jeanette Marek Col Daniel & Judy Matarazzo	Lt Col John & Cathy McDonald CAPT Charles & Debra McWhorter COL Michael & Lynne Morrow Col James & Pennie Pavlisin Lt Col Charles & Lynn Pittman Lt Col Scott & Linda Rayho COL George & Terry Ripplinger Lt Col Dan & Pat Shaffer Lt Col James & Anne Stevenson CWO4 Emmet & Carrie Schwarzkopf Lt Col Michael & Valeria Tiernan Maj James & Catherine Trobaugh Col John & Pauline Verling Lt Col Doyle & Donna Walker
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Southwest Illinois Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 735
O'Fallon IL 62269

Meeting Announcement

Our September meeting will be held on Saturday, 8 September 2018 at Fletcher's Kitchen & Tap in Belleville. (See Program News for details.) Cost will be \$24.00.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWIL MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation deadline (mail, e-mail, or phone call received by): 3 Sep 2018.

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: _____