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Capitol Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

Timely Topics

Chapter Web site: www.cacmoaa.org

(Vol 2017 – No.5)

2016-17 EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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May MOAA Dinner

When: Thursday, 11 May 2017

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel

925 South Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan (at I-496)

SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM

DINNER: 6:30 PM

PROGRAM: 7:30 PM

ADJOURN: 9:00 PM

Menu Selections:

#1 Parmesan Chicken with herb roasted potatoes and green beans

#2 London Broil with herb roasted potatoes and green beans

Make your reservations by SUNDAY, 7 May 2017

On line at www.cacmoaa.org

or contact CW3 Tony Kruckeberg, armyblkhawk@yahoo.com, or [517-575-9386](tel:517-575-9386)

Include # of attendees. Cost is \$25.00.

Make checks payable to 'Capitol Area Chapter MOAA.'

May Program

Online Safety and Phone, Mail and eScams

Sandy Cherry

State of Michigan Attorney General

We are living at a time when being connected is necessary to keep in touch with family and friends, manage simple day to day transactions, access new entertainment content, and simply be part of the information economy. While staying connected 24/7 is convenient, it also opens users up to scammers, hackers, and identity thieves. Sandy Cherry from the State of Michigan Attorney General, Consumer Protection Team will talk about the threats of being connected and simple steps you can take to protect yourself and family from the bad actors. She will also discuss the common scams used to trick you into connecting or giving up personal information. The goal of this session is to educate our members to become better consumers and savvy to avoid being scammed. If you are online, you'll want to attend this meeting.

MOAA Travel

MOAA has signed on with a new travel agency. You can find details at (www.MOAAvacations.com). If anyone has any personal experiences with MOAA Travel, please pass them on for a future article.

2017 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP, BOOK ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS

It is with great excitement and pride that the Winners of our Chapter Scholarships are announced as follows: (chapter member in parenthesis)

Scholarship: \$1,400 each awarded to:

Isabelle Fleszar (COL Tom Emery)
Mary Pocock (MG James Pocock)
Alison Kruckeberg (CW3 Tony Kruckeberg)
Maria Repichowski (MG Steve Repichowski)
Karalyn Kiessling (COL Joseph Mika)

Book Allowances \$300 each awarded to:

Ryan McAnelly (COL James Kent)
Steve Repichowski III (MG Steve Repichowski)
Marissa Smits (COL James Spackman).

Because of the generosity of our donors and greater participation from chapter members, the scholarship fund balance was about \$2,000 more than last year which allowed scholarship awards to be \$300 higher this year. The awards will be presented at the June picnic.

Storming the Hill 2017

Mel Flikkema, Michigan Council of Chapters President, and a member of the Grand Rapids Chapter, "Stormed the Hill" with MOAA in April. As you know, this is an annual event during which representatives from every state visit Congress on the same day to advocate for the legislative issues MOAA is currently pushing. This is a brief summary of the issues presented:

End Sequestration & Its Harmful Defense Cuts

Issue: The return of sequestration in FY 2018 will force billions in cuts from DoD's budget, even as threats in Iraq, Syria, North Korea, China and Russia pose increasing threats to our national security

MOAA Position: End Sequestration.

Eliminate the "Widows Tax" (SBP-DIC Offset)

Issue: Military widows penalized \$15K/yr when service caused death. Partial rebate (\$310/mo SSIA) expires May 2018.

MOAA Position: Fully repeal the SBP-DIC offset. At a minimum and absent full repeal, extend current SSIA benefits with incremental increases to assist affected survivors

Oppose Disproportional TRICARE Fee Hikes

Issue: Sweeping reforms were launched in 2017 for TRICARE and the Military Health System, resulting in new fees for beneficiaries. It is expected DoD will continue to try and get beneficiaries to pay more.

MOAA Position: The current fee structure is fair in value. The proportion of costs borne by beneficiaries and the cost absorbed by the government is fair. It considers the extended service and sacrifice of the currently serving and career force and their families. Beneficiaries' fees should not rise faster than does their compensation and the annual percentage fee increase should not exceed the annual retired pay COLA percentage.

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Executive Board Meeting

4 May 2017, 1130 hours at Piazzano's,
1825 N Grand River, Lansing, MI

Newsletter Comments or Questions
Contact our Newsletter Editor, COL Dave
Herring, moaaeditor@gmail.com or 517-
719-4579.

MOAA Year in Review

From the MOAA President:

As I celebrate my first anniversary as MOAA's president and CEO, I am reminded of the positive influence our organization has on the entire military community. Whether it's advocating for higher pay raises, containing health care expenses, offering one-on-one benefits counseling, or providing individualized career guidance, our actions continue to make a difference.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share highlights of our association's remarkable success in 2016. I hope you'll find this a useful effort to provide some reflection on the challenges, opportunities, and accomplishments profoundly impacting the livelihood of all servicemembers — past, present, and future — and their families.

You can be assured of MOAA's commitment to never stop serving.

Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)

You can see the entire Review at <http://www.moaa.org/annualletter/>. See Legislative accomplishments on the next page.

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MOAA Legislative Achievements

Our greatest privilege is to protect the earned benefits of the men and women who have served and continue to serve this country. In 2016, the president signed one of the most important and comprehensive defense bills we have seen in years. MOAA's advocates worked tirelessly to keep harmful legislation from affecting military communities nationwide. Here are just a few of MOAA's legislative achievements from the past year alone:

- *Blocked doubling of **TRICARE PHARMACY FEES**
- *Secured a 2.1 percent **FULL MILITARY PAY RAISE** for servicemembers
- *Retained **DUAL MILITARY COUPLE HOUSING** allowance eligibility
- *Extended the **SPECIAL SURVIVOR INDEMNITY ALLOWANCE** at \$310 a month until May 2018