



Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

APRIL 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our March event was an outing to Wright State University to see *On the Town*, a musical depicting an eventful 24 hours for three sailors on liberty in New York City during World War II. As always, WSU's cast was excellent, and its production values were first-rate. It was our most well-attended event this year – everyone appeared to have a wonderful time.

Our next monthly meeting is on Saturday, April 22nd. After socializing and lunch, John Hill will provide an update on the progress of the critical KC-46 program. John was the KC-46 System Program Office Chief Engineer before retiring from civil service and is now with the local Boeing office. See the article



in the newsletter below for more information. I look forward to seeing you there. It promises to be an enjoyable and informative event.

The most important topic I want to address, however, is the future of our chapter. As you have probably noticed, there have been appeals for volunteers for our Executive Board in the *Officers Call* for approximately the past year, and there was a special membership meeting last October where the sole topic was our need for additional members on our board. Vacancies in key positions have existed on our board for some time, and we have no succession plan if any of the current working board members step down. A couple individuals have recently expressed interest, but we need more.

On March 24th, along with several other board members, I participated in a video conference with CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), Program Director, and CAPT Erin Stone, USN (Ret), Senior Director, both from MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs. The subject of the meeting was MOAA's Rescue, Revitalization, and Closure Process for chapters experiencing various types of difficulties. We learned that the most common existential problem faced by chapters is the lack of members to volunteer for leadership positions. Frank mentioned that the French Creek Chapter in Meadville, Pennsylvania recently closed for this reason. We are hopeful of avoiding a similar fate, but without additional help, this remains a distinct possibility.

As has been mentioned previously, the workload for our Executive Board members does not need to be great, and the responsibilities of a position could be tailored to one's availability and preferences. It is also possible for several members to share a single position to further reduce one's time commitment. Since we are fast approaching our decision point, if anyone is interested in

joining our board, please get in touch with me (contact information at the end of this newsletter) if you wish to discuss possible roles and responsibilities.

We will be working with Frank and Erin in the weeks ahead to schedule a chapter rescue event (probably in the June or July timeframe) to which all current chapter members and all MOAA members in our area who are not chapter members will be invited. Several MOAA staff members will participate in this event, and MOAA will also help defray the costs (refreshments and food will be provided). Stay tuned for the details concerning this event. If key vacancies continue to exit after this meeting, it will be time for the Executive Board to decide if the chapter can continue to function.

Finally, I encourage everyone to visit our website at www.daytonmoaa.weebly.com where you can find more information about our organization and functions, legislative issues, as well as our current and past newsletters. Also, MOAA National's website at www.moaa.org contains information concerning MOAA resources, member benefits, and current news/event of interest to the military community.

Tom Robisch
President
Dayton Area Chapter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

22 April Boeing's John Hill on the KC-46 program

THE NEW AIR FORCE KC-46 REFUELING TANKER-JOHN HILL of Boeing



Come and join us on Saturday, April 22nd to hear about the new KC-46 refueling tanker that is replacing the old KC-135 that's been in the inventory since the mid-1950s. The KC-46 provides refueling support to all the services for a multitude of aircraft giving our military global reach. We're fortunate to have Mr. John Hill, of Boeing Company in the local Dayton Office, speak to us on this invaluable program. John Hill served as the USAF KC-46 Chief Engineer, responsible for all technical engineering efforts for development, production, modification and sustainment of the KC-46 fleet, before retiring from the Air Force. Now with the local Boeing office, John is a Customer Engagement Liaison for many USAF programs.

We'll meet at the "Wandering Griffin Brewery & Restaurant," at 3725 Presidential Drive, Beavercreek, near the Home Depot. We'll get together in the "Deco Room" at 11:30 to have time to socialize, enjoy a range of appetizers that will be set-up in the room, and order lunch from the bar. We'll begin lunch around 12:00pm or shortly after. Program begins after lunch. Please e-mail or call Denny Crouch at denniscrouch@earthlink.net or 937-426-6246 and let us know you'll be there and we can advise the restaurant of how many to plan for. Your luncheon bill will include a pro-rata share of the appetizers. Oh yeah! Don't forget to help support the Fisher House. We'll deliver any gifts to them.

WAPAKONETA TRIP?

The Executive Board has discussed the possibility of an outing to Wapakoneta, Ohio to visit the Armstrong Air & Space Museum, and the purpose of this notice is to determine interest in this possible activity. This facility focuses on the history of flight and space exploration with an emphasis on the career and accomplishments of Neil Armstrong, who grew up there. Wapakoneta is approximately an hours drive up I-75 from Beavercreek. Please let Tom Robisch know at trobisch63@gmail.com or 757-327-1388 if you would be interested.

MOAA GOLF LEAGUE

Now is the time to act to join the golf league for the 2023 season. We are always looking for full time players & subs. For more information or to join, please contact Larry Pohl (937-477-5645) or Bob Emerson (937-545-4610). The league typically runs from end of April to the end of September. We play on Monday mornings on the East course at WPAFB. The league is open to all MOAA members and spouses. The tee times start at 9:00am. The play is 2 member teams. You can join as a team or we can pair you with another member. We start handicaps fresh each year. The league provides a great way to meet other MOAA members and enjoy 9 holes of friendly competition. Join the fun, fellowship and get a little exercise.

FINAL PHASE OUT OF WIDOW'S TAX

THE WIDOW'S TAX has finally been repealed in full. The last deduction was taken from our DOD Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) that has been augmenting the Veterans Administration Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for many years. Back in 2021 the US Congress voted to correct this misdeed, but it was phased in over 3 years. Surviving Spouses who qualify for SBP, got their full SBP pay as of February 1, 2023.

Many thanks to MOAA (National) for continuing to meet with Congress for years to push for the repeal of the unjust Widow's Tax. SBP, is an insurance policy that military members who opt into the program, pay for over many years, to provide a survivor benefit to their family when they pass away (on duty or after retirement.). DIC is a Veteran Administration benefit paid upon the death of a military member who died of one of a specific list of qualifying diseases.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOAA and all of you who took the time to make calls and write letters to Congress, supporting the plight of surviving spouses to finally get what their spouses earned, and to finally have it restored. We all thank you very much.

TRICARE PHARMACY CUTS:

The April 2023 MOAA Magazine, "Military Officer," contains a brief article "When Cuts Hit Home," by CMDR (USN-RET) Roy Kiefer. The article summarizes the challenges to veterans regarding the 2022 announcement that 15,000 pharmacies are dropped from TRICARE network because of contract renegotiations. The result has been that service members, retirees and families are being forced away from their neighborhood pharmacies. This is not acceptable. MOAA and 21 other veteran service organizations in the Military Coalition sent letter to Defense Health Agency calling for a solution. The MOAA magazine contains two formatted letters addressed to the Senate Majority Leader, Charles Schumer, and Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell. We recommend that you send these letters to your Senate leaders for action. The formatted letter focuses on Restoring Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% for service members and reversing the TRICARE pharmacy cuts. Also, MOAA National will be on the Hill on 26 April to seek solutions to these two matters.

FISHER HOUSE NOW RECEIVING SUPPLIES AGAIN



Thanks to all MOAA DAC members who have supported WPAFB Fisher Houses. The Fisher House program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that is normally provided by the DoD and the VA

. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Fisher Nightingale House 417 Schlatter Dr Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433. To make a contribution by credit or debit card contact FNHI Director Chris Stanley at

[\(937\) 672-8724](tel:937-672-8724). With a lessening of restrictions. Fisher Houses can now accept deliveries of donated items; Bring your Fisher House gifts to our events and we'll deliver them

Wright-Patt Fisher House Wish List*

- » Individually wrapped snacks (cookies, crackers, candy, etc.)
- » Individually wrapped cereals
- » Variety of individually wrapped breakfast bars
- » Individually packaged small sugar packets
- » Variety of assorted chips, individual packaged
- » Keurig coffee (K-cups) variety
- » Small coffee creamers
- » Green tea, tea bags
- » A variety of individually packaged tea bags
- » Mac and cheese (individual cups)
- » Individual small containers of apple sauce
- » Individual containers of fruit cups
- » Individually packaged microwave popcorn
- » Assorted cookies
- » Paper towels
- » Toilet paper
- » Tissues
- » Clorox Wipes containers
- » Small containers of hand sanitizers from name brands (*so they can fit them in their purses, backpacks, etc.*)
- » Red plastic solo cups
- Purex or Tide and regular Tide Pods
- » Coffee cups
- » Dishwasher Tablets (Cascade)

WORDS TO PONDER

Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them.

ELECTED 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES

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