

## Dayton Area Chapter – Military Officers Association of America



# Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

DECEMBER 2020



The month of November was very busy for the Dayton Chapter (DAC). Your board of directors represented you, the members, in 2 of the DAC's annual presentations. Both presentations were made at the WPAFB USO center. The picture on the left shows the USMC representative to the DAC board, Col Laurence (Larry) Simpson, USMC (ret) presenting the Toys-for-Tots check to Marine Corps representative Gunnery Sergeant Mumm. The picture on the right shows the President of the DAC golf league Maj Laurence (Larry) Pohl, USAF (ret) presenting the annual golf league check to Mr. Erik Oberg, the Center Manager Center Manager of the Wright-Patterson USO. After the presentations the

board held its first face to face monthly planning meeting in more than 6 months in a specially configured room on the second floor of the USO building. We want to thank Mr. Oberg for hosting our meeting and allowing us to use the space for future meetings.



So you now can see where we use the funds you send us with your dues to support our charities, our troops, and their families. Speaking of charities and supporting our troops and their families we recently received a letter from the local Fisher House asking for support. The main fund raiser for the 3 Fisher Houses in the Dayton area was cancelled this year because of COVID19. Read inside how you can help. Also, all donations to the DAC charities are tax deductible as are donations to the Fisher House.



This is my last input to the newsletter as your president. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to tell you that I most appreciate all of your support during my 2 year tenure. I also want to point out that your board, working as a team, has made the DAC a vibrant force that made our local programs go so well while continuing to support the much larger MOAA agenda. Please take some time in the future to thank the members of the DAC board for their efforts. I look forward of being a team player under the leadership of the new DAC president: Tom Robisch.

Mike Ondrasek,  
President  
Dayton Area Chapter

The Military Officers Association of America is an independent politically non-partisan organization operated to benefit members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors

**PLAN AHEAD**

The current COVID situation especially Montgomery County going purple and Greene not far behind has put a significant damper in our ability to structure in person activities. The Board is trying to find activities where we can enjoy each other's company while at the same time complying with current directives. It should come as no surprise our annual Christmas Party has been cancelled. One promising activity is to attend dinner and the activities associated with The Carillon Park Christmas activities followed by attending one of the Dayton Performing Arts concerts in January. Stay tuned for further developments.

**OUR CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

The Dayton Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (DAC-MOAA) currently operates as a tax-exempt unincorporated association. In anticipation of filing articles of incorporation with the State of Ohio (primarily for liability-limiting reasons), the Executive Board has been working on updating our current Constitution and By-Laws.

After two periods of review by the membership and receiving no negative comments on the proposed changes. The Board considered them approved and had them submitted to the State in support of our incorporation request. The request was approved and we are now an incorporated entity. The next step has incoming President investigating sources for general liability coverage. We are also developing a Standard Operating Procedures document.

**MOAA SURVIVING SPOUSE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

As your Dayton Area Chapter Liaison for Surviving Spouses I attended the MOAA Council/Chapter Leaders Virtual Workshop on Nov. 13-14 which was via Zoom, so an unusual way to attend a conference. Two sessions specifically were on Surviving Spouses, and a good deal of information was shared. Gail Joyce, President of the national MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter gave us ideas for ways to reach out to spouses of former MOAA members. She stressed that Surviving spouses are not Auxiliary Members, but actual voting members of MOAA. Any Surviving Spouse whose spouse was an MOAA Life Member, can automatically become an MOAA Life Member. It is important for MOAA Clubs to engage Surviving Spouses with programs and activities that are informational and educational. MOAA has materials to help those who have been or are going through the transition period, such as Survivor's Planning Guide, and the Remarriage Guide. For more information on these publications, or if you have questions regarding Surviving Spouse participation in MOAA and the Dayton Area Chapter, please call me, Jan Lorette, at (513)970-1095.

**643<sup>rd</sup> AFROTC CADET WING, WSU FALL AWARDS CEREMONY**

The 643rd Cadet Wing at Wright-State University was able to have their in-person Awards Ceremony this fall while ensuring COVID protocol was in place. The wing asked our MOAA chapter to participate. Cadets Tyler Adams, WSU, and Jeff Smith, Cedarville University are graduating. The chapter provided the cadets their first set of 2/Lt bars, a certificate of accomplishment, and offers to join MOAA National with a Basic Electronic Membership. Denny Crouch said, "It was a pleasure and honor to be part of our new officers entering the military service."

**MILITARY RETIREES AND FAMILIES ARE GETTING AN EXTENSION ON ID CARD RENEWALS**

Military dependents and retirees now have through the end of June 2021 to access benefits using ID cards that expired this year, thanks to an extension of temporary ID card rules issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Typically, cards must be applied for, issued and updated in person up to 30 days before the expiration date at one of the more than 1,600 ID card offices on military facilities worldwide. Cards that do not expire, such as those held by retirees over 65, do not need to be renewed.

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/09/21/military-retirees-and-families-are-getting-extension-id-card-renewals.html?ESRC=mr\\_200921.nl&fbclid=IwAR125l0WihZflle\\_ejxHMVWsnQ4HM4MveLFPq33gUZEIkOch2DHRrdPh5vM](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/09/21/military-retirees-and-families-are-getting-extension-id-card-renewals.html?ESRC=mr_200921.nl&fbclid=IwAR125l0WihZflle_ejxHMVWsnQ4HM4MveLFPq33gUZEIkOch2DHRrdPh5vM)

## **LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

Despite the [repeal of the “widows tax”](#) in last year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), there is still work to be done for Congress to improve equity for survivor benefits. MOAA and The Military Coalition, a group of military and veterans service organizations representing a combined 5.5 million-plus membership, continue to advocate for the survivor community and seek legislation to address existing inequities

One such piece of legislation making its way through both the House and Senate will do just that by lowering the so-called “remarriage penalty” and allowing more survivors of seriously disabled veterans to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. Another would raise the DIC rate, and a third combines the two bills.

### **Bipartisan Support**

The Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act, [S. 4594](#), introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), mirrors the Surviving Families Benefit Expansion Act, [H.R. 8559](#), introduced in the House by Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.). Both pieces of legislation have Republican cosponsors. If passed by both chambers and signed by the president, they would:

- Lower the remarriage penalty from 57 to 55. This would allow survivors who remarry younger to continue receiving DIC benefits, as well as maintain eligibility for VA-backed home loans and dependent educational assistance.
- Reduce the amount of time for a veteran to be totally disabled from 10 years to five for the surviving spouse to receive DIC.

Officials estimate these changes would cost hundreds of millions of dollars – a figure that may not make the legislation possible in the current session, but is achievable for the 117th Congress, which begins in 2021.

### **What About DIC Improvement?**

While the above measures would expand the pool of DIC recipients, two other bills – [S. 1047](#) and [H.R. 3221](#), both entitled the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act of 2019 – would raise the amount all DIC beneficiaries receive.

The legislation would boost DIC to 55% of the compensation of a 100% disabled veteran, up from the current 43%. This is on par with other federal survivor programs. Correcting this injustice is long overdue. Unfortunately, the initial cost estimate for this legislation was very high – roughly \$20 billion over 10 years.

This legislation is worthy of your support with a phone call and correspondence to your lawmaker. Equally worthy is legislation that wrapped all three efforts under one bill: [H.R. 6933](#), the Caring for Survivors Act of 2020, was reintroduced by Rep. TJ Cox (D-Calif.) this year and would provide the DIC boost and the benefits from the Tester/Hayes bills. It may prove more effective to break up these objectives into an incremental approach, affording the possibility of a small win in the current financial deficit environment.

## **MOAA GOLF LEAGUE**

Final MOAA Golf League meeting for 2020 will be: 4 Dec. 2020 at 10:30 AM via ZOOM. Top of the agenda is selecting NEW OFFICERS. We are trying to expand the league next year, so anyone interested contact, Larry Pohl or Bob Emerson. Golf has been one of the few things that has stayed close to normal, we would love to have 20 teams next year.

**FISHER HOUSE**

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. At the

present time Fisher House is not accepting any physical items. The COVID impact this year has been hard on the finances of the organization but they have never closed their doors. 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:9376728724). Watch this space for when contributions can restart. Thanks for all your previous support.

**WORDS TO PONDER**

“The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed and hence clamorous to be led to safety by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.” – H.L. Menken

**ELECTED 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES**

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