

Dayton Area Chapter – Military Officers Association of America



Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

JANUARY 2021



This is my first message to you as president of the Chapter. Previously, I served as our organization's 1st vice president.

My initial thought is to thank our outgoing president, Mike Ondrasek. Mike dedicated considerable time and effort to our Chapter, and we should be grateful for his service. I look forward to receiving the benefits of his advice and experience in future months since he will remain on the Executive Board as the most recent past president.

Our immediate challenge is operating in the face of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We have been unable to offer the types of activities that we conducted routinely in past years, not only because it has not been safe for our members to come together in person but also because we are subject to Ohio Department of Health orders that restrict the size and types of permissible gatherings. Unfortunately, it appears that these conditions will persist for the indefinite future, which will continue to complicate our planning efforts. It is

likely that our traditional functions will not resume until the vaccine is available to all of us, and it remains unclear when that will occur.

Under these circumstances, we are trying to book some virtual events that may be of interest to our members. We do not have anything planned for January, but we are trying to arrange guest speakers in February and March at lunchtime on the third Saturday of each month, our traditional meeting time. These activities will be interactive as viewers will be able to pose questions to the speakers and to other participants if desired. For the February activity we have contacted a local law firm that specializes in elder law, estate planning, and probate matters; a presentation on such topics may be useful to our members. Planning for this event is ongoing, and details will be disseminated when available. In March Dr. William Trollinger, a professor in the History and Religious Studies Department at the University of Dayton, will speak on "Terrorizing Immigrants and Catholics: The Ohio Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s," a topic on which he won the 2014 Catholic Press Award for Best Essay in a Scholarly Magazine. I hope many of you will join us for these events, which should be both informative and engaging.

Finally, I encourage everyone to visit our website at www.daytonmoaa.weebly.com where you can find 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.

I join you in looking forward to better times in the future.

Tom Robisch
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 has put a significant damper in our ability to structure in person activities. As mentioned above, The Board is trying to find activities where we can enjoy each other's company while at the same time complying with current directives. Stay tuned for further developments.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Our Chapter, like virtually every organization composed of volunteers, depends upon its members to function efficiently. While we have a good core of productive and dedicated Executive Board members, our organization would benefit from additional volunteers.

Specifically, there is currently a vacancy in the 1st Vice President post. The official responsibilities of this position are not onerous, but the occupant may become more engaged if desired. The primary duties of this position are to stand in for the President at meetings of the Executive Board and Chapter functions if the President is unavailable and to serve as a member of the Executive Board. It is a fine opportunity to learn more about the business of our Chapter as well as to interact with friendly, intelligent, and interesting individuals. If interested please contact Tom Robisch at trobisch63@gmail.com or 757-327-1388.

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.

"SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: THERE'S A FACEBOOK GROUP FOR THAT!"

"Connect with others and learn about benefits, legislation, and issues affecting surviving spouses and families through this MOAA Facebook page.

"Are you wondering where to go to get information about issues affecting surviving spouses and families? Are you looking for a supportive, nonjudgmental group to assist you in learning and keeping up to date on benefits and legislation impacting our surviving families? Need a pick-me-up or to connect with others who share similar interests as you? Join the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page!](#)

"Who can join? We have recently expanded our membership to include not only surviving spouses but also our families, military spouses, council and chapter surviving spouse liaisons, advocates, and others with an interest in issues that impact the survivor community, regardless of MOAA membership

Is this a public or private group? This is a private group, and there are no fees or dues. You are required to answer a couple of brief questions and be approved by the administrators of the group to join. These questions are designed to ensure we provide a safe place to share information and connect with other like-minded people as well as protect the group. from those who. do not have a legitimate interest in our issues."

If you have questions regarding Surviving Spouse participation in MOAA and the Dayton Area Chapter, please call me, Jan Lorette, at (513)970-1095.

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.

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. You can also support the Fisher house through the Kroger Community awards Program. Visit <https://www.fnhi.org/kroger-community-rewards/> for further details. Watch this space for when contributions can restart. Thanks for all your previous support.

WORDS TO PONDER

May you live as long as you wish and love as long as you live. Robert A. Heinlein

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