



Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

JUNE 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On June 19th at noon we will host a virtual presentation from Mr. Scott Leas, Public Affairs Specialist and Community Outreach Manager (and retired USAF), at the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs Dayton Medical Center. Scott will address eligibility requirements for obtaining VA services, the various types of medical benefits offered at the Dayton VA Center, and how eligible individuals can access this support. He will also be available for questions. While some may already know the details concerning these topics, Scott's presentation will likely be of great interest to many of us. So plan on spending an hour or so with us on the 19th, and please be aware that the virtual link will become live at 11:30 AM for a social period for the participants before Scott's presentation.

On August 21st at noon we will have our chapter's annual business meeting, election of officers for 2022, and picnic at the outdoor pavilion at Bass Lake Lodge on Wright Patterson AFB. While the pavilion and restrooms are presently open, the Club cannot commit to any food service at this time. Accordingly, the Executive Board will be working on a plan to obtain food and beverages from another source. Details concerning the picnic will be provided next month. Please plan on joining your fellow chapter members and spouses for this event. It promises to be a good opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new ones.

I also want to note that our scholarship evaluation committee selected a winner for this year's \$2,000 award. She is Aleah Pitney of Lebanon High School. Aleah's high school record is one of great success in academics, athletics, and community service. There were many outstanding applicants this year, but the committee members quickly reached a consensus in her favor. Normally, we try to present our scholarship award during our annual picnic on August 21st, but we will be unable to do so this year. By that date Aleah will have already matriculated at the University of Alabama, where she plans to study business and pre-law. Accordingly, we will present our award to her under other circumstances. Congratulations to Ms. Pitney!

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.

Tom Robisch
President Dayton Area Chapter

PLAN AHEAD

19 June

Daytron VA Presentation

TRICARE ALERT

We have been informed that Premier Health "Urgent Care" facilities in Ohio are not accepting Tricare as an insurance payment. Premier Health was not able to successfully negotiate a 2021 contract with Tricare. We recommend members contact Tricare and request action be taken to preserve this insurance benefit for military members and their covered family members.

CHAPTER DONATION SUPPORT

We are very grateful to the wonderful response we received in 2020 from our membership to support our many annual charitable donations. In January, we gave a \$375.00 donation to the National Museum of the USAF and in March, we sent our annual donation of \$1,000.00 to the Fisher-Nightingale House to support the great work they do to help military families and veterans in need while they stay at three (3) Dayton FNH facilities. Our next significant donation, \$2,000.00, will be for our Annual High School Scholarship which occurs in August and then our Toys for Tots Marine donation (\$1,000) in November. I ask our membership to help us ensure we are able to continue our donations at our planned levels. To date, we have \$1,300.00 allocated to the Scholarship fund; however, we only have approximately \$100.00 in our operating budget for our Toys for Tots donation. Please consider making a small donation now or when you renew in August. A little help from everyone will enable us to meet our goals. Thank you for your kind consideration.

SURVIVING SPOUSE INITIATIVE

I am collecting information for a 1 to 2 page summary for Surviving Spouses for our Chapter. A number of other organizations, including MOAA HQ, have already done much of this work through other formats. My plan is to create a brief guide citing these sources, rather than collect all the information itself, to guide members and friends to sources for this helpful material.

I plan to have a draft for our Board by June 1, 2021, to review before it is ready to distribute. If you have questions about this or other Surviving Spouse matters, please call me at (513)970-1095 or email me at jblorette@gmail.com.

ROTC/JROTC NEWS

Cadets enrolled in local high school Junior ROTC programs studied virtually at home and safely in-person classes at their school house during these past arduous 14 months of the COVID pandemic. Similarly, the officer candidates in programs offered at Wright State University (Army and Air Force ROTC), University of Dayton (Army ROTC) and at Central State University (Army ROTC) achieved their goals to be commissioned graduates, that is, serve as 2nd Lts and maybe become our future senior generals. Several of our DAC members represented our chapter at some recently held awards ceremonies for the teens or college students to recognize their focused achievements both academically and as engaged leaders.

Thanks especially to these members, who travelled to attend scheduled events: Tom Robisch (Greenville's Navy JROTC and Wayne High School's AFJROTC), Terry Cooney and Mark Sparling (Northmont Navy JROTC), Dave Gothard (Bellbrook AFJROTC), Leslie Buerki (Central State University's Army ROTC), Ray Gaier (University of Dayton's Army ROTC) and Denny Crouch (Wright State University's Army and Air Force ROTC). Did you know that we also give a gift of a pair of gold bars (their first rank) to each commissioned officer and a free BASIC e-membership to MOAA National.

Even though seven schools held a virtual ceremony for parents and students and we could not "high five" the awardee in person, all schools did receive by mail our MOAA medal/ribbon and certificate for this annual recognition to students. Also, thanks to our scholarship evaluators who

reviewed ten submissions by seniors competing for our Chapter's \$2,000 scholarship, but especially to the many members who donate again and again to guarantee this generosity to one local high school graduate's further education.

AIR FORCE MARATHON VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION OPENS 1 MAY

Once again our Chapter is going to support the Air Force Marathon. As in previous years we will be manning the Information Booth on Thursday 16 September. There will be 2 shifts starting at 2pm. Instructions for signing up are depicted below. Our password is **moaa21**

Volunteer Registration Instructions: Volunteer registration opens on May 1 and shifts will not be visible until then

1. Access the volunteer registration site:
<https://airforcemarathon.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=53510>
2. Enter your group password into the "Have a password? Enter it here" textbox, then select "Submit"
3. Your group's shifts will appear and select the "+" buttons to expand the selections
4. Select the checkbox next to your preferred shift time
5. Scroll down to enter your email address and fill out the registration form, then select "Sign Up To Volunteer"
6. You will receive a confirmation email shortly afterwards

Please send me an e-mail at tcooney8@gmail.com to let me know for which shift you signed up.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

There is still work to be done for Congress to improve equity for survivor benefits. MOAA and The Military Coalition, continue to advocate for the survivor community and seek legislation to address existing inequities

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)

The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, introduced by Sens. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) would create comprehensive toxic exposure reform to expand health care, improve the presumptive process, and ensure veteran input in the process about the critical conditions affecting the health and well-being of servicemembers, veterans, families, survivors, and caregivers as a result of exposures while in service.

[Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt](#)

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support *The Major Richard Star Act*, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA

Remember things will only change if we work to make it happen. As an example, after meeting with Representative Turner's Military Legislation Staff member, Congressman Turner signed on as a co-sponsor of the toxic exposure legislation referenced above. For information regarding areas of involvement visit: <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/>

MOAA GOLF LEAGUE

The MOAA golf league got off to a rough start. We've only played 2 out of 4 scheduled matches. Good news: we picked up 4 new full time players & again have 12 teams. As always, we need more people who are willing to sub. If you are a MOAA member & enjoy playing golf but don't want to commit to playing every week, then join us as a sub. We will put your name on our list & teams needing a sub will call. If you have commitments or don't want to play, then you can always turn down the offer. For additional information, call Larry Pohl (937-254-0913) or Bob Emerson (937-545-4610).



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. Watch this space for when contributions can restart. Thanks for all your previous support.

WORDS TO PONDER

"When you adopt the standards and values of someone else you surrender your own integrity. You become, to the extent of your own surrender, less of a human being." – Eleanor Roosevelt

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