



Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

NOVEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I attended the MOAA Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA in mid-October. Attendees received updates with respect to MOAA's legislative initiatives (some advancing in the FY 2022 DOD authorization bill process, some not), financial status (solid, no areas of concern), recruitment efforts (ongoing, but trying to appeal to younger officers), and communication strategy (more below). The MOAA website has detailed information on the event.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough, was the keynote speaker. He addressed the VA'S commitment to veterans' care and discussed his department's efforts to improve its operations, which includes plans to expand its health care infrastructure. In that respect he mentioned that the VA, on its own initiative, is

reexamining previously denied Agent Orange claims. Affected claimants do not need to reapply; the VA will reappraise all such cases.



Along with others, the Dayton Area Chapter received MOAA's highest Level of Excellence Award for our operations in 2020. Although I was happy to accept the award from Lt Gen Atkins (MOAA CEO) and GEN Sharp (MOAA Board Chairman) on behalf of the DAC, Mike Ondrasek was the chapter president during the period covered by the award. Thanks to Mike and all board members for their work!



Concerning communications, Alan English (MOAA VP for Communications) announced that FACEBOOK will be the future for MOAA with respect to disseminating information, although its website will also be utilized in this respect. This should be an interesting area to monitor. For example, only one of the chapters in Ohio currently has a FACEBOOK page (Greater Cincinnati Chapter), and its president tells me that the data on monthly hits indicates that he is generally the only one looking at the page. In other words, many MOAA members are not avid FACEBOOK users, which will complicate MOAA's intentions to emphasize this platform in the future. Accordingly, please be advised that our chapter has no plans to change our practice with respect to our website, newsletter, and occasional email informational updates.

In other news, I am hosting a luncheon for our surviving spouse members on 8 November at 11:00 AM at the Cherry House Café in Beavercreek. Also, there will be a luncheon for chapter members who joined in 2020 and 2021 on 9 November at 11:30 at the Dublin Pub in Dayton. In both

cases, separate invitations have been sent to the spouses and new members, but anyone else is welcome to attend. Please contact me at trobisch63@gmail.com or 757-327-1388 if you're interested.

Tom Robish
President

AUGUST IS DUES MONTH

Please note the header of e-mail that delivers this newsletter. If it indicates 08/21 it means that we are still waiting for your dues for the current year. Dues remain a whopping \$15 for regular members and \$10 for surviving spouses.

PLAN AHEAD

November 8	Surviving Spouse Luncheon – Cherry House Café 1100
November 9	New Member Luncheon – Dublin Pub 11:30
November 10	Toys for Tots and USO Donation Ceremony/ Officers and Directors Mtg.
April 2	WSU Theater – Sweet Charity 2pm

ROTC LUNCHEON



The luncheon for ROTC cadets went very well. Special emphasis was given by the Emcee to our ROTC cadets as they are our future leaders. On the left Denny Crouch is thanking the Wright State University (WSU) Army senior cadets for coming. On the right Denny is thanking the WSU Air Force senior cadets for attending



the luncheon.

In the picture on the left below we see one of the cadets making her presentation: where she was from, what is studying, and where she hopes to serve her first assignment. (She was still awaiting word where she will be assigned.) All the other cadets had a chance to speak along those lines.



In the picture on the right, we see Regina Goldman of the American Legion Post Auxiliary describing the support that the Auxiliary gives to various service-connected organizations. The ladies to Regina's right are the members of the Auxiliary who prepared the Legion Hall for our event and served the picnic-like luncheon. Without the support of the Auxiliary, our recognition luncheon would not have happened. Further, Regina mentioned that if desired



by the chapter, they could make this program an annual event. The DAC Board of Directors will discuss making this event a part of our annual events at our next meeting.

WSU THEATER OUTINGS TO RETURN

Save the date! We are planning to return to our semi-annual outing to the WSU theater with the performance of Sweet Charity at 2pm on 2 April. Watch future newsletters for details

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

We will have another Surviving Spouses lunch at the Cherry House Cafe in Beavercreek on Nov 8, 2021. We plan to get together about every other month, so watch for future notices if you want to join us.

There is a newly completed "Sources & Guides for Surviving Spouses" that you can view by clicking on the link: <https://daytonmoaa.weebly.com/surviving-spouse-liaison.html>

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please check the subject line of your e-mail or the mailing label of your newsletter. If you see August 2021 then your dues are overdue. This newsletter and much of what we are able to do as an organization is dependent on an active membership base. Please consider rejoining.

KEY BILLS

Ask Your Legislators to support the following:

Adjust SGLI and VGLI for Inflation

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage amounts have not been updated since 2005. This law would raise the level from \$400,000 to \$500,000 – a necessary move to preserve the value of this program in the face inflation. Ask your lawmakers to lend their support today.

- **The Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act**

The military spouse unemployment rate is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre-pandemic, the military spouse unemployment rate was 22 percent and has been that or higher for over a decade. The pandemic has had a significant impact on this community, with 34 percent of military spouses reporting the loss of a job and 25 percent reporting reduced hours. The Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act would expand the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to incentivize businesses to hire military spouses and create dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSAs) for military families to reserve pre-tax dollars from their paychecks to cover out-of-pocket child care expenses.

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

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS

- Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
- Just remember...if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.
- Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison

- If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called LABOR!
- Wouldn't you know it...Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.
- Why do I have to swear on the Bible in court when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed in a federal building?
- Bumper sticker of the year: "If you can read this, thank a teacher....and since it's in English, thank a soldier."
- Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!
- Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet!
- The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about!
- I don't trip over things I do random gravity checks!
- I don't need anger management. I need people to stop driving me crazy
- Old age is coming at a really bad time!
- When I was a child, I thought Nap Time was a punishment ... now, as a grown up, it just feels like a small vacation!
- The biggest lie I tell myself is ... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

ELECTED 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES

PRESIDENT	TOM ROBISCH, LTC, USA	trobisch63@gmail.com	757 327-1388
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	VACANT		
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	KURT GRAFTON, MAJ USAF	kurtgrafton@yahoo.com	513-409-5625
TREASURER	DAVE GOTHARD, COL, USAF	ddgothard@aol.com	937-429-1649
SECRETARY	VACANT		
PAST PRESIDENT	MIKE ONDRASEK, COL, USAF	michael.ondrasek@att.net	937-429-9297

ELECTED SERVICE/AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVES

USAF REPRESENTATIVE	TIM CRAVEN CAPT, USAF	cravente@msn.com	937-233-3538
NAVY REPRESENTATIVE	VACANT		937-879-6230
ARMY REPRESENTATIVE	VACANT		
USMC REPRESENTATIVE	LAURENCE SIMPSON, COL, USMC	simpsonle@aol.com	937-429-1469
SURVIVING SPOUSE REPRESENTATIVE	JAN LORETTE	jblorette@gmail.com	513-970-1095

APPOINTED OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS REP	MIKE ONDRASEK, COL, USAF	michael.ondrasek@att.net	937-429-9297
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE	TERRY COONEY, CAPT, USN	tcooney8@gmail.com	937-427-0590
PERSONAL AFFAIRS	CHARLIE COOPER, MG, USAF	6570Bethany@gmail.com	937-436-7008
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	DENNIS CROUCH, COL, USAF	denniscrouch@earthlink.net	937-426-6246
ROTC/SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS	LESLIE BUERKI, MAJ USAF	lesliebuerki@gmail.com	937-322-6664
CHAPTER ROSTER	KURT GRAFTON, MAJ, USAF	kurtgrafton@yahoo.com	513-409-5625
GOLF LEAGUE PRESIDENT	LARRY POHL	PFSPohl@AOL.com	937-254-0913
GOLF LEAGUE SECRETARY	ROBERT EMERSON, COL USAF	Bob.Emerson@att.net	937-427-0538
OFFICERS CALL EDITOR	TERRY COONEY CAPT USN	tcooney8@gmail.com	937-427-0590
CHAPTER CHAPLAIN	BILL LeCAIN, LTC USAF	niacel1943@aol.com	937-429-0263

MAILING ADDRESS: DAC MOAA P.O. BOX 12, FAIRBORN, OH 45324