



<INSERT NAME HERE>

President's Input

Happy New Year! I hope that all y'all had a great Christmas and received and gave what you wanted. So, where did 2017 go? And here we are about to enter 2018! Hopefully there will be a budget by the time this newsletter is published. Last we heard on the situation, a Continuing Resolution (CR) was in effect until December 21. So, if the government is still operating when you read this, then we either (hopefully) have a budget or at least another CR.

I mentioned the last time we left the situation, and that situation was our Annual Christmas Party and Fundraising Auction. We had a guest auctioneer—Bill Duesenberry—courtesy of Narni Cahill, and he did a wonderful job helping us raise over \$1500! With some other donations, we have raised over \$2000 for scholarships! Wow! I am blown away by the generosity of this Chapter. And please, if you have any notion at all to support our Chapter scholarship funds, please donate. You can send money to our PO Box, or give it to anyone on the Chapter Board. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity!

Have you met our newest Chapter member? Thanks to Col (ret) Co Soule for helping “entice” Col Moelman, who was already a Life member of MOAA, to join our Chapter. Jack was invited to our Christmas party to play his organ, an organ that he purchased in 1965! And it has traveled with him

(continued on page 3)

Passings



Our chapter suffered a great loss last month. Our good friend and colleague, Colonel (ret) Ron Morey, passed away 13 Dec 2017.

Col Morey was commissioned June 1966 and graduated navigator training. He flew his entire career, which culminated as the Operations Staff Director at HQ Air Mobility Command.

You'll find Col Morey's full obituary on page 7.

Welcome

Our chapter would like to welcome new member Col (ret) Jack Moelman, USAF

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Treasurer's Report, November 2017

Checking Account Balance	\$2,380
Savings/Scholarship Balance ..	\$7,241
CDs	\$14,952
Total	\$24,573



This Month's Program

This month's meeting is at Silver Creek Saloon & Grill in Belleville IL. After a short business meeting, Yolanda Wood will talk to us about kayaking down the Mississippi River this summer.

We'll be meeting in one of Silver Creek's private rooms and ordering/paying individually.

Thursday, 11 January 2017

Silver Creek Saloon & Grill

2520 Mascoutah Avenue

Belleville IL

Individuals will order from menu

Lunch at 11:30

Attire: Business Casual

Menu

Individual's will order from the menu & pay individually

Upcoming Programs

Date	Venue	Topic
Feb 2018	Bandana's BBQ/Jack Moelman	Entertainment
May 2018	Venue TBD	Business Meeting
Jun 2018	Busch Stadium (tentative)	Watching the Cards!

Please Note: I'm fully transitioning to my duties in Chapter Communications as of January 2018. I'll be planning the May Business Meeting and our June Event. There will be a break in the meetings until we find someone to manage our Programs. If you're interested in helping the Chapter, please contact me at rick.sunner@gmail.com.

What's my name?

We haven't received many votes in round one of "What's my Name?" Choose from these six:

1. Eyes to the Skies
2. Standing for America
3. SW IL MOAA Chapter Notifier
4. SW IL MOAA Chapter Guardian
5. SW IL MOAA Chapter Informer
6. The Sentinel

Please email your **Top Three** choices to:

rick.sunner@gmail.com

Subject: SW IL MOAA Newsletter Name

President's Input (from page 1)

everywhere he went in his Air Force career, finally settling here in O'Fallon IL after he retired in 1991. And he has been entertaining audiences at the Fox Theater and in the basement of his home, and playing for St Michael's Episcopal Church worship services. If you haven't heard him play (he's been playing since he was 10-1/2 years old when his piano teacher told him that he would never amount to anything on the piano) or experienced his humor, you may have another opportunity in the near future. Watch for more news about this in the Programs section.

Thank you again for your support as a Chapter member and also coming to the meetings as you're able to, and for the service you provide continually. God bless you, the men and women of our armed forces, our elected leaders, our President, and the great United States of America!

Fortunately (or unfortunately), a Continuing Resolution (CR) was passed before the deadline on December 8 that extended the operating budget for the government until December 21. This means that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 has not been passed, so we don't have action yet on those items that Congress was negotiating regarding military entitlements such as military pay raise, TRICARE and pharmacy co-pays and fees, spouse licensure, Impact funding, and SBP-DIC offset. Let's review quickly where we are currently:

The final legislation increases troop strength above the President's request by: 7,500 in the active duty Army, 1,000 in the active duty Marine Corps, 500 in the Army Reserve, and 500 in the Army National Guard.

The defense policy legislation also authorizes the full 2.4-percent pay raise for members of the armed forces. While MOAA championed the full pay raise rather than the 2.1-percent pay raise proposed in the president's budget, this raise matches the Employment Cost Index, as it did last year, a lingering, cumulative gap of 2.6 percent remains from previous years as compared to the private sector.

Housing allowances remain intact. The Senate's proposal to cut the with-dependent rate for dual-military couples with children would have been a significant financial hit to those families, the majority of whom are enlisted. MOAA's financial impact analysis and engagement with leadership on the Armed Services Committees paid off for those families.

What's in Store for TRICARE?

MOAA's engagement and the members' contact with Congress on the dissatisfaction with the proposal to raise TRICARE pharmacy fees were not enough to dissuade an increase in fees. Over the next 12 years, cost shares will increase purportedly saving DoD more than \$2.1 billion by 2022. Most of the increases will be through retail pharmacy copayments, but new fees will also be introduced for mail-order prescriptions. The Senate's Conference Report Highlights indicate these copayments would generate discretionary savings to fund improvements in military readiness and health care.

Beneficiaries still can obtain their medications at military pharmacies for free.

Non-active-duty TRICARE users currently pay:

- \$0 for 90-day supplies of generic drugs via TRICARE's home delivery
- \$20 for a 90-day supply of an approved brand-name drug. Prescriptions filled at an in-network retail pharmacy carry a cost of \$10 for a 30-day supply

Federal Legislative News



- \$10 for a 30-day generic supply at an in-network retail pharmacy
- \$24 for a 30-day supply of a brand-name drug at a retail pharmacy.

Expect more changes as early as next year when all medications (except those obtained at a military treatment facility) will require beneficiaries to pay a fee. The projected fee structure could be, for medications obtained through TRICARE's home delivery program, \$7 for a 90-day supply of generic medication and \$28 for a 90-day supply of a brand-name medication.

Generic medications received at in-network retail pharmacies would cost \$11 for a 30-day supply, but the cost of brand-name drugs would increase to \$28.

TRICARE beneficiaries will continue to see an increase in the cost of medications between now and 2026. Costs are projected to top off with fees for a 30-day supply of a generic medication at a retail pharmacy and a 90-day supply by mail reaching \$14. A 30-day supply of a non-generic medication at a retail pharmacy will be \$48, and a 90-day supply by mail will hit \$44.

What Should Military Families Know?

Reimbursement for spouse licensure. The conferees approved language that would permit the services to reimburse up to \$500 of licensure costs incurred as a result a PCS.

Impact Aid increases. Conferees restored supplemental Impact Aid to 2014 levels and doubled Impact Aid funding for schools with military-dependent children with severe disabilities.

Military survivors. A controversial provision in this year's bill extends funding for a benefit set to expire in May 2018. Conferees agreed to permanently extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) and index future increases to COLA. This provision's controversy is twofold: It fails to make continued progress on eliminating the offset, and lawmakers are funding this permanent extension using higher TRICARE pharmacy copayments. In essence, the broader group of TRICARE beneficiaries are being tasked to pay for this benefit. Making a permanent extension to the allowance relieves some of the anxiety military survivors have experienced during previous funding challenges and uncertainty. While not in favor of the funding method through the pharmacy co-pay increases, MOAA is will continue to work with the Armed Services Committee to get the remaining 75 percent repealed.

And then there is the issue of the new tax bill that might be passed by the time this goes to publication. While this bill could be significant for the nation, there are implications for the military.

Also watched are mortgage interest rate deductions, qualified moving expense reimbursements, alimony payments, and more. Further, from a nonprofit standpoint, MOAA is concerned about charitable giving being affected by doubling the standard deduction and taxing nonprofits for licensing their names or logos.

Tax Bill Trading

Topic	House	Senate	MOAA's Take
Exclusion of gain from sale of a principal residence	Modified to require 5 years of residency from 2	Modified to require 5 years of residency from 2	Oppose both: Servicemembers move too often to benefit from new requirements
Qualified medical expense deductions	Repeals deduction	Preserves deduction	Support Senate: significant benefit for older veterans
Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)	Repeals WOTC	Preserves WOTC	Support Senate: Vetting incentive must also be extended
Moving Expense Deduction	Preserves deduction for moves by order	Preserves deduction for moves by order	Support both: But use "uniformed services" vice "armed services"



Go to <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx> to learn about these issues and more! And on top of all these issues is SEQUESTRATION! Send a message to our elected representatives today! <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=288193>

[Tax Overhaul – Motion to Request Conference](#) - Vote **Passed** (222-192, 19 Not Voting)

Brady, R-Texas, motion that the House disagree with the Senate amendment and request a conference with the Senate on the bill that would revise the federal income tax system by lowering individual and corporate tax rates, repealing various deductions through 2025.

Rep. Mike Bost voted **YES**

[Concealed Carry Reciprocity Between States](#) - Vote **Passed** (231-198, 4 Not Voting)

The House passed the bill that would permit any individual authorized by their home state to carry a concealed handgun to also carry that concealed weapon in any other state that permits the carrying of concealed weapons. The bill also would require a twice-annual certification by all federal agencies, federal courts and state governments, in coordination with the Department of Justice, to verify that all relevant data has been reported and uploaded to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System regarding individuals who are not eligible to purchase firearms.

Rep. Mike Bost voted **YES**

[Small Business Mergers Regulatory Exemption](#) - Vote **Passed** (426-0, 6 Not Voting)

The House passed the bill that would exempt brokers handling mergers and acquisitions from Securities and Exchange Commission registration requirements in cases in which the company being sold does not have any class of securities required to be registered with the SEC and in the prior fiscal year, the company's earnings, before interest or taxes, are less than \$25 million or gross revenue is less than \$250 million.

Rep. Mike Bost voted **YES**

[Short-Term Fiscal 2018 Continuing Appropriations](#) - Vote **Passed** (235-193, 5 Not Voting)

The House passed the joint resolution that would provide funding for federal government operations and services at current levels through Dec. 22, 2017, at an annualized rate of \$1.23 trillion for federal departments and agencies covered by the 12 unfinished fiscal 2018 spending bills. The bill also would allow state Children's Health and Insurance Programs to receive extra redistribution funds beyond what is currently allowed, supporting the program's operations through the end of December.

Rep. Mike Bost voted **YES**

Local News

Passwords

A long time ago, in a galaxy (OK, it was here)

In our first cybersecurity presentation, we talked about how to protect your home computers from the bad guys. One of the topics was passwords. I'm going to briefly review what we talked about.

Passwords should be easy to remember but hard to guess. In the past, the advice was to use complicated password rules, like "certain length with combinations of lower case, upper case, numbers, and symbols." We've found that these types of passwords are no longer as secure as they once were.

Instead, use a "passphrase," using several words put together--the longer the better. Use a phrase you can remember, but one that the bad guys won't be able to guess.

Stay tuned for more advice in future newsletters.

For current and archive editions of the Afterburner Retiree Newsletter, go to:
<http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>

Easter Egg Winners

October 2017 — Linda Lowe

November 2017 — No one!

December 2017 — Jerry McCrave

Dec 2017 Solution: in this case it was a Christmas Angel standing atop the Capitol Dome in the Legislative News section. Congratulations Jerry!

Can you find the January "Easter Egg?"

There's an image somewhere in this newsletter (no hints this month). Be the first to tell me where and what it is to win!

GOOD LUCK!

E-mail your answer to rick.sunner@gmail.com

Chapter Officers

President	Col (ret) Bob Norman
1st Vice President	Open
2nd Vice President	Maj (ret) Rick Sunner
Secretary	Lt Col (ret) Ann Morey
Treasurer	Col (ret) Dick Glogowski
Communications	Maj (ret) Rick Sunner
ROTC Liaison	CDR (ret) Tim Grout

Reminder!
 Chapter dues are payable at
 the end of December

Colonel (ret) Ronald L. Morey, USAF Nov 1944 — Dec 2017

Retired Air Force Colonel Ronald Leonard Morey, age 73, of O'Fallon, Ill., passed away Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017. Ron was born to Leonard and Jewel "Winn," nee Gideon, Morey on November 25, 1944, in Wichita, Kan.

Ron graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., on June 8, 1966. From there he attended navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, Calif., with a follow-on assignment to the C-130 squadron at CCK Air Base, Taiwan. With over 4,000 hours of flight time, flying was his first love and he was lucky enough to fly his entire career. His second love was his family, and he was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Ron served in many command positions including being one of the first navigators to command a flying squadron - the 316th based at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., as well as serving as Vice Base Commander at Yokota Air Base, Japan. His final duty assignment was Operations Staff Director, Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base in O'Fallon, Ill. He retired June 30, 1996. For 30 years, Ron served his country with honor and distinction.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF retired; son, Brian (Jill, nee Corey) and their daughters, Olivia and Delainey of Collinsville, Ill.; son, Wade of O'Fallon, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo.; and numerous in-laws, nephews, and nieces.

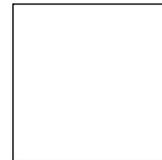
Memorial donations may be made to the United States Air Force Endowment Fund, 3116 Academy Dr., Suite 200, USAF Academy, Colo., 80840, or Schuetz Manor Dolan House Memory Care, PO Box 4082, Chesterfield, Mo., 63006.

Editorial Policy

The Southwest Illinois Chapter Newsletter is published monthly by the Southwest Illinois Chapter which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.



Southwest Illinois Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 735
O'Fallon, IL 62269



Meeting Announcement

Our January lunch meeting will be held on Thursday, 11 January 2018 at the Silver Creek Saloon and Grill in Belleville IL. (See Program News for details.) Plan to order from the menu and pay individually.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWI MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation Deadline (Mail received by, email, or phone call): 8 Jan 2018

E-mail to swimoaa@charter.net, or complete this form and mail it along with your check for the cost of the meal(s) to: Southwest Illinois MOAA, P.O. Box 735, O'Fallon, IL 62269 **to be received by the deadline.** Alternatively, phone Dick Glogowski at 618-624-6115 with a commitment to pay at the door.

Number of Reservations Desired:

Member's Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____