



Notes From the President

Happy New Year everyone! I hope your Christmas holiday is enjoyable. Some exciting things are on the horizon, especially after the election in November. Change in the White House, changes in Congress, possibly changes for the good in legislation affecting our military. Read more about that in the Legislative Update.

On a sad note, Col (ret) Robert Gage, was killed in an automobile accident on 11 December near Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a semi-tractor trailer crossed the median of the highway and struck Col Gage’s car head-on. Col Gage filled the position of Personal Affairs Liaison for several years on the Chapter Board. He was also a dedicated volunteer for many other charitable organizations. He will be missed. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Expect a full slate of activities coming up for the Chapter this year. We have our regular monthly chapter meetings, of course, that you can read about in the Program Update. And there will be a smattering of other events that will require support. Our chapter is going to be represented at the annual Company Grade Officer Leadership Symposium at Scott AFB in February. Additionally, we have been invited to attend and present a briefing on MOAA membership and legislative issues at a meeting of clients of First Command Financial Services and their guests in March. Also in March, we’ll hold another donation drive to raise funds and collect non-perishable food and toiletry items for the USO Missouri and Fisher House St Louis. We raised over \$1,500 at our annual Christmas Scholarship Fundraiser, so we will have enough for two scholarships this year—one for the Nalley (legacy) winner and one JROTC student. Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause. April and May will mark the end of the academic year and we’ll be awarding MOAA medals to deserving JROTC and ROTC students, and delivering Gold Bars to newly commissioned US Army second lieutenants graduating from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. In June, we’ll have another outing, and that will complete the activities for this half year. None of what we do would be possible without the support, involvement and commitments that our Chapter receives from you, the members. The MOAA slogan—Never Stop Serving—is fitting for our group. And I sincerely appreciate all you do for the Chapter, the community, and the nation as we Take Action. God bless you all and the men and women who serve this great nation, and God bless America—land of the free because of the Brave!

BOB NORMAN

Treasurer’s Report	22 December 2016
Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,553.67
Savings/Scholarship Balance	\$ 7,297.22
CD's	\$ 14,805.12
Total	\$ 23,656.01

Chapter Officers

President – Col (Ret) Bob Norman – 624-0449
1stVice-Pres. – Open
2ndVice-Pres. – Maj (Ret) Rick Sunner 978-269-4453
Secretary – Lt Col (Ret) Ann Morey – 628-0286
Treasurer – Col (Ret) Dick Glogowski – 624-6115
Newsletter –Lt Col (Ret) John Prather – 632-6980

Upcoming Program News

Thursday, 12 January 2017
Hop House, Southern Eatery
1214 Central Park Drive
O'Fallon IL 62269

This month, we're holding our monthly meeting as a lunch. Mr. Chris Figura will talk to us about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Menu

Two-Entrée Lunch Buffet

	Smoked Brisket
	Chicken and Wild Mushroom Pasta
	Smashed Potatoes with Beer and Bacon Gravy
	Grilled Asparagus
	Salad and Bread
	Coffee & Iced Tea

Attire

Event attire will be business casual.

11:30 A.M. Social Period, Announcements, with Lunch Following
\$16.50 per person

Reservations: E-mail Dick Glogowski at swimoaa@charter.net (preferred), mail (using RSVP form in the newsletter), or call 624-6115 by **6 January, 2017** with a commitment to pay at the door. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can get an accurate head count. Thank you in advance for your help.

Future Meeting Calendar

Date	Venue	Program
11 February	Essex House (Scott AFB) (Tentative)	Valentine's
11 March	TBD	TBD
8 April	Butterfly Patio (Tentative)	TBD
13 May	Ken Kellogg's Hangar (Tentative)	Business Meeting
June (day TBD)	Cardinals Game (Tentative)	Watching the Cards Win!

Regarding Programs, I want to make sure our programs are enjoyable and worthwhile for our Chapter. If you have a Program idea, or you know someone you believe would provide an interesting and worthwhile topic at a future meeting, please email me at rick.sunner@gmail.com with their topic and contact information.

RICK SUNNER

Federal Legislative Update

Lame duck session? Maybe not so much. The Senate actually did pass the FY17 budget and sent the National Defense Authorization Act to the President for his signature. He could veto the whole thing, but here is what the military community gained when the bill came out of conference:

Currently Serving Issues

Pay raise: Approves a 2.1 percent 2017 military raise (matching the average American's), rather than the 1.6 percent proposed by DoD.

Force levels: increases for all services significantly above the Pentagon proposals.

Housing Allowance: Rejects a Senate-proposed plan that would have cut allowances by tens of thousands of dollars a year for dual-service member couples and other military members who share housing.

Spouse Employment: Eliminates 2-year eligibility limitation (after PCS) for noncompetitive appointment of military spouses to federal civilian positions.

Parental Leave: Authorizes up to 12 weeks of paid leave (including 6 weeks medical recuperation leave) for primary caregiver after childbirth; 21 days authorized for servicemember who is the secondary caregiver.

Survivor Benefits

Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA): Extends this allowance for SBP-DIC widows through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate (giving us an opportunity to push Congress next year to increase and further extend the allowance, or eliminate the offset in its entirety).

SBP for Reserve Components: Upgrades Survivor Benefit Plan formula for Reserve Component members who die while on inactive duty for training to equal SBP benefits for those who die on active duty.

TRICARE Benefits and Fees

- There will be **no changes to TFL**. The bill rejects the Pentagon proposal to impose an annual TFL enrollment fee of up to 2 percent of military retired pay.
- Rejects a DoD proposal to roughly double TRICARE pharmacy copays over 10 years.
- Grandfathers currently serving and currently retired members and families against most increases.
- EXCEPT current retirees and family members enrolled in TRICARE Standard (to be renamed TRICARE Select) will pay a new enrollment fee of \$150/\$300 (single/family) per year, starting in 2020 (NOTE: Chapter 61 (medical) retirees and survivors of members who died on active duty will be exempt from this enrollment fee).
- Establishes a new requirement for retired members and families (except TFL) to execute a formal annual enrollment in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, starting in 2017 (IMPORTANT: this means they will have to physically sign a piece of paper to enroll; enrollment will be required for TRICARE coverage).
- Eliminates a requirement to get pre-authorization for urgent care, and requires all military medical facilities to maintain urgent care hours until 11 p.m.
- Authorizes DoD to provide hearing aids to family members of retirees at DoD cost.
- Requires implementation of standard appointment system at all military facilities no later than 1 January 2018, including issuance of appointment on first call and 24/7 online service availability.

- Authorizes retired members and families to participate in federal civilian dental and vision plan (the current retiree dental program will go away).

Military Health Care Reform

- Places all military hospitals and clinics under the authority of the Defense Health Agency for purposes of budgeting, health care policy, and health care administration.
- Requires pilot program of value-based care, which would reimburse providers at higher rate for providing top-quality care and reduce or eliminate co-pays for high-value medications and medical services.

BOB NORMAN

State Legislative & Program Update

Mr. Chris Figura will be talking at the January meeting about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The following is information about how the Illinois criminal justice system may deal with veterans including those whose problems may be an outgrowth of underlying PTSD issues. In 2010, the “Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 167/)” became law. Under this Act the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit “may” establish a Veterans and Servicemembers Court program. This may be at the discretion of the Chief Judge a separate court or a program of a problem solving court, cluding but not limited to a drug court or mental health court.

On 14 August 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner signed House Bill 5003 (HB 5003) which amends the above Act changing the wording that each judicial circuit “may” to each judicial ciorcuit “shall” implement a Veterans and Servicemembers Court by January 2018. This change and its underpinnings are discussed in an excellent article titled “The Illinois Veterans Treatment Court Mandate from Concept to Success.” published by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondate and may be found at:

www.opensiu.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1054&content=ppi_papers

JOHN PRATHER

Latest Legislative Issues

For the latest on legislative issues affecting military active duty, retirees and their families go to <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>. Here you will find MOAA National's “Top issues”, the “Legislative Action Center” and “COLA Watch”.

Southwest Illinois Chapter of MOAA 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 meeting will be held at **11:30 AM** on **Thursday, 12 January 2017**, at Hop House Southern Eatery in O'Fallon. (See Program News for details.) Cost is **\$16.50** per person.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWI MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation Deadline (Mail received by, email, or phone call): 6 January 2017

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 by at 618-624-6115 with a commitment to pay at the door.

Number of Reservations Desired: _____

Member's Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Is this your first meeting with us? _____

Any special notes (e.g. Birthdays, Anniversary) _____