



Notes From the President

Happy Anniversary! Southwest Chapter was established on 26 June 1982. Big thanks to those pioneers who helped set us up! Thirty-five years strong! We had a great business meeting this month. Big thanks to Ken Kellogg for hosting the affair (once again) in his airplane hangar! We also had visitors from the Illinois Council of Chapters—currently serving President, Col (ret) Bob Tyler, USMC, and Chaplain Maj (ret) Ralph Woehrmann, USA, along with their respective wives. At the meeting, Col Tyler presented the Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award 4-Star Level for Print Newsletter to the Chapter. I gladly accepted the award on behalf of our newsletter editor, Lt Col (ret) John Prather, USAF (and team!). Great work, John! 13 August is the Veteran’s and Gold Star Family Day at the Illinois State Fair, hosted by the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs. There will be a parade, the Gold Star memorial service along with a Missing Man Table / Ceremony, JROTC Drill competition, and an “official” program on the Lincoln Stage. Lunch for veterans is being underwritten by USAA. There will also be a bounce house and face painting for children. All events are planned to be completed before the Hog Calling competition. More schedule info to follow. Illinois Council of Chapters along with other Chapters will set up a table to offer information about MOAA and joining a local Chapter. I’ll be headed that way, and anyone else who would like to join me in manning the table is welcome. Please call me and let me know if you’d like to help out. Have you heard that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service offices are moving? As of 1 May 2017, the new addresses are:

For Retired Pay Defense Finance and Accounting Service
 U.S. Military Retired Pay
 889 E 56th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

For Annuitant Pay Defense Finance and Accounting Service
 U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
 889 E 56th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300

The old PO Boxes in London, KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time. Telephone and fax numbers are not changing.

Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional information: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Thank you for your service and support to the Chapter. God bless you and your families, our men and women serving all over the world, our leaders, and the United States of America!

BOB NORMAN

Treasurer’s Report.....	23 May 2017
Checking Account Balance	\$1,035.26
Savings/Scholarship Balance	\$7,572.20
CD’s	<u>\$14,859.92</u>
Total	\$23,558.26

Chapter Officers	
President – Col (Ret) Bob Norman – 624-0449	
1 st Vice-Pres. – Open	
2 nd Vice-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

Tuesday, 13 June 2017

Cardinals Game, Busch Stadium

Meet at Cardinal Express (St Clair Mall)

Between 5:00 and 6:15 PM

Eat at the Ball Park

7:15 P.M. First Pitch

\$30.00 per person

For our last meeting before the summer break, we're going to watch the Cards beat the Brewers! Let's meet at the Cardinal Express Pickup Area at the St Clair Square Mall (near the water tower) and ride to the game together. I will be handing out tickets to the game at the Pickup Area. Then we'll enjoy a meal at the ballpark before watching the game. This is a group discount rate so we really need your support to insure we get the discount.

The reservation deadline is earlier than normal to give us time to get good seats. Hope to see you there!

Busch Stadium Concession	Use the \$12.00 in Cardinal Bucks on your ticket to purchase food and beverages at one of the concessions at Busch Stadium Be sure to pick up bottled sodas or water when you pick up your ticket. (Left over from the Business Meeting.)
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Attire

Dress for the ball game in your favorite Cardinals wear.

(And dress for the weather between 5 and 11 PM!)

Reservations: E-mail Dick Glogowski at swimooa@charter.net (preferred), mail, or call 624-6115 by **1 June, 2017** with a commitment to pay at the Cardinal Express Bus. 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
9 September	Wine Tap in Belleville	Welcome/Membership Drive
14 October	TBD	TBD
11 November	TBD	TBD
9 December	Cardinal Creek (Tentative)	Christmas Auction

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 ricker.sunner@gmail.com with their topic and contact information.

RICK SUNNER



Federal Legislative Update

Despite the statements from President Trump, Congress still faces the issue of sequestration, which means that all those associated with the Department of Defense in some form or fashion could be affected if that sword of Damocles is not repealed. Please go to the Legislative Action page on the MOAA website and send a message to our elected leaders to repeal sequestration. And while you're at it, take the opportunity to also send a message on the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) – Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset issue. Only 63,000 widows of military members are affected by this terribly unfair law that reduces their compensation \$15,000 each year. Go to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/> to send the messages. **Do it today!**

Fortunately, Congress got their act together and passed a budget before the end of the Continuing Resolution that was signed by President Obama in December 2016! Discussion on the 2018 budget is on the table though, and that's when sequestration becomes an issue. Along with that discussion is another one that could, even if sequestration is repealed, portend tough times for us all—Military Compensation is being reopened.

In their final report released January 2015, the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, a credible body of leaders with over 140 combined years of military service experience who surveyed over 1.5 million service members and retirees, noted that modernization might benefit individual compensation programs, but “The overall structure of the current compensation system is fundamentally sound and does not require sweeping overhaul.” The commission also recommended keeping the basic pay table in its current form and continuing the basic allowances for housing and subsistence (BAH and BAS).

Unfortunately, now another think tank in Washington D.C. with a similarly credible body of leaders with extensive military experience, has released in March 2017 a report, *Building a F.A.S.T. Force: A Flexible Personnel System for a Modern Military*, recommending several attention-getting actions, among them replacing the military pay table — the core of Regular Military Compensation — instituting annual involuntary separation boards to remove low performers, increasing TRICARE enrollment fees for military retirees (albeit grandfathering those currently serving), and calling on the next Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation to evaluate and adjust military compensation to “deliver optimal strategic outcomes.” Not sure where this is headed, but distressing is the point that military compensation *needs* to be changed. Before any dramatic changes are implemented, there needs to be some serious thought given to the objective of all this change. The military profession is still a dangerous and critical field, maybe even more so these days, and ensuring the viability of the military force, the heart behind the machinery, cannot be forsaken for the sake of saving a few bucks.

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/On-Watch/Overhauling-Military-Compensation.aspx#sthash.kkKPPEpR.dpuf>

Do you use the TRICARE Dental plan (TDP)? You may have already received some notification about your rates changing and that you will continue to have dental coverage, but not all dentists you may have within 35 miles of your home will be listed as participants. On 1 May 2017, United Concordia Companies of Harrisburg PA took over responsibility to provide dental coverage to 1.37 million active duty family members and 376,000 Reserve and guard members and their families. Starting in June, some TDP enrollees will need to find new dentists from the



directory of participating providers that has been developed by United Concordia. United Concordia will be required to meet Code of Federal Regulation standards that 95 percent of enrollees have access to care within 35 miles of their homes and within 21 days.

Premiums will drop from 50 cents a month for single active duty family members to more than \$16 a month for a reservist with family coverage. Other plan improvements are:

An increase in the annual maximum TRICARE will pay for dental care under the plan, from \$1,300 to a new ceiling of \$1,500.

Sealants at no charge as preventive treatment to protect permanent teeth after eruption. A current requirement that beneficiaries pay a 20-percent cost share for sealants will end.

Auto-enrolling children of families at age 1 rather than age 4. The goal is to educate families sooner on proper dental health, and particularly to discourage the practice of keeping children on nursing bottles too long and allowing sugared drinks that can cause rapid decay of newly erupting teeth.

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2017-Military-Update/New-TRICARE-Dental-Plan--Patients-Will-Save,-But-Some-Docs-Will-Flee.aspx#sthash.AeLU9zRG.dpuf>

COLA Watch

The April CPI is 238.432, 1.4 percent above the FY 2016 COLA baseline. The CPI for May 2017 is scheduled to be released on 14 June 2017.

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/#COLA-Watch>

BOB NORMAN

State Legislative & Program Update

No new Illinois State legislation to report this month. However, if you get the chance take a look at the Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs web site <https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/pages/default.aspx> It contains a lot of interesting information. While surfing the site, I happened upon the National Gold Star Family Registry <http://goldstarfamilyregistry.com/> web site. The Wall of Heroes was particularly moving. This is a strip across the bottom of the web page where family and friends make short comments about their lost loved one. We receive these days, so many “thank yous for your service” and attend Veterans and Memorial Day celebrations, all very well meant but the real, enduring and sometimes lost and forgotten, in our busy day-to-day lives, price of our profession is encapsulated in the few simple comments of these individuals about their heroes no longer with us. Very moving to think for a moment or two about the Gold Star families and the price they have also paid for our freedoms. A great site to visit this Memorial Day.



Latest Legislative Issues

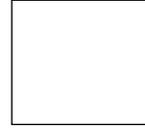
For the latest on legislative issues affecting military active duty, retirees and their families go to [http://www.moaa.org/take action/](http://www.moaa.org/take%20action/). Here you will find MOAA National's "Top issues", the "Legislative Action Center" and "COLA Watch".

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 final meeting before summer break will be held on Tuesday, **13 June 2017**, at the Cardinals v Brewers game at Busch Stadium in St Louis. (See Program News for directions.) Cost is **\$30.00** per person.

RESERVATION FORM FOR SWI MOAA CHAPTER MEETING

Reservation Deadline (Mail received by, email, or phone call): 1 June 2016

E-mail to swimooa@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: _____