

December 2021—January 2022



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The MOAA Airways is the bimonthly newsletter of the Fort Rucker Chapter, MOAA which is an Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliates are nonpartisan.
 Ft. Rucker Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 620075, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36322
 Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 18TH - 6:00 PM,
 MICHAEL'S ROOM, FORT RUCKER, AL**

CHRISTMAS MENU

Social: 1800
 Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 1845
 Dinner: 1900

- >Mixed green salad w/assorted dressings
- >Roast beef w/mushroom demi glaze
- >Pea & carrot medley
- >Rustic B Red mashed potatoes
- >Rolls & butter
- >Chocolate cake w/red & green sprinkles
- >Unsweet & sweet tea, water, coffee

Cost: \$25.00
 Dress: Coat & tie (men), dinner dress/pant suit (ladies) OR Ugly Christmas Sweater (w/appropriate lower body attire).

Whoya Gonna Call?

Please make your
 Reservations by noon
 Wednesday, December
 15th to Mary Rutkowski at
 (334) 347-4966.

Cash or personal checks only!

Persons not canceling their reservation by
 noon on the Friday prior to the Dinner
 Meeting will be responsible to our
 Chapter Treasurer for full payment
 of the reserved meals.

GUEST SPEAKER

Lots of
 Christmas
 Carols &
 President's
 Report



President's Message by Ron Kaita



Fall is here and the area is looking wonderful. The National Peanut Festival was a blast with the grandchildren as Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching. Our Chapter continues to do well regardless of any COVID-19 restriction as we all remain vigilant and take necessary precautions as we go about our daily business. The Veterans Day holiday was widely celebrated in the Wiregrass with much support by our communities and merchant recognition offerings as we honored all those who have served our great Nation, past and present.

Our next Chapter Dinner meeting will be held on 18 December with social hour beginning at 1800 hrs., and dinner served at 1900 hours at The Landing (formerly the Officers Club) on Fort Rucker. I will perform the duties of guest speaker to provide everyone my takeaway from this year's Annual Members Meeting held in October in

Arlington, VA...along with a fun silent auction of nice offerings, an "ugly" holiday sweater competition, and of course Christmas Song sing-along with Chaplain Dennis Newton.

The most recent events for our chapter were the presentation of Leadership and Distinguished Honor Graduates from the Warrant Officer Candidate School Class 21-502, Class 22-01, Class 22-02, and the last week in November Class 22-03. Our MOAA Chapter presents these MOAA awards at every graduation for MOAA National in recognition of their achievements with a MOAA certificate, a \$100 check, and a three-year Premium membership. There will be no WOCS graduation ceremonies in December due to the Exodus of students for the holidays, and much needed rest and reset for all the curriculum instructors/managers and cadre in Rucker's numerous unit training courses.

I would thank our recent MOAA National members and especially our

newly joined Chapter members. Most recently LTC (Ret) Earl (Rick) McCleskey and his wife are our newest chapter members as of this writing. I look forward to meeting our new chapter members and their spouses at our next dinner meeting. We are blessed to be able to hold our numbers in check even though we have lost some. Othan Gilbert has done an excellent job ensuring our membership totals remain constant on the plus side. As MOAA National has always stated, we are our own best recruiters. Please share your vast experiences and association with MOAA as you meet and greet new acquaintances in the community this holiday season. If you are not aware of MOAA's FREE Basic Membership offering, please contact me and I can provide you the information/materials to bring them onboard. If you rather prefer, I can take care of those details for you. I would like to remind everyone to please check out MOAA's National homepage as to the many important (see **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE page 4**)





Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count is currently 146.

I am pleased to report the welcome addition of 1 new chapter member who was a former member of the Dothan MOAA chapter, which is now inactive. MAJ Ralph Hicks and his wife, Arlene, live in Dothan. They are both welcomed and their confidence in joining our chapter is appreciated.

On 1 November, I mailed chapter dues invoices for year 2022 to 38 chapter members. Several have already responded and these early replies are appreciated. Historically some of our chapter members procrastinate and wait until late December before mailing in their checks. Your prompt replies (even if you do not wish to continue your membership) will be welcomed. If I get no response by 31 December, then your membership will be dropped. Chapter membership at \$12 is a real bargain. You are also

membership with MOAA National.

We all know that there are a lot of retired officers in our area. While many are not members of MOAA National, many are but are **not** members of our chapter. It is hard to understand why some have no interest in joining our chapter, particularly since our chapter dues are so low at \$12 per year. In recent years, our board has maintained a policy that new members get the first year of their chapter dues gratis to encourage joining. In any case, perhaps they need some encouragement from you to join. It is important that all chapter members are involved in chapter recruitment. Experience has shown that the best candidate for membership into the chapter are those that are already members of MOAA National. When you find someone that wishes to join, have them go to our chapter website, download a chapter application, fill it out and return to our box at the Fort Rucker post office. No check

encouraged to maintain current, active

necessary. Remember, we are not a social club and membership with MOAA National is a prerequisite to local chapter membership.



The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortruckermoaa.org. Please check the chapter website from time-to-time as photos from our past dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622. If you would like to purchase a MOAA National life membership, it is better to do so by calling them direct and speaking with someone. If you do that (vs doing so over the web), they will give you a 10% discount, give you credit for your current premium membership (if applicable) and arrange payments over an extended period.

Remember to patronize the ten sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.



Legislative Report

by Charlie Wigglesworth

How time flies! Halloween is over, Thanksgiving is here, Christmas is around the corner and the New Year will be here before you know it. I guess as we get older,

time moves too fast but the Legislative world moves too slow. MOAA HQ continues to work hard to make sure that the services we care about are being pursued and advocated for. They are our advocates at the national level! Now, here's news from the Legislative front.

The last year, Congress and the White House enacted the necessary legislation on time to fully fund the government for the upcoming fiscal year was for FY 1997. FY 2022 started like every other year since then, with no budget and the need for a Continuing Resolution (CR) to ensure the government kept its doors open. MOAA is closely following several parts of the budget process in Congress. Missing the October 1 deadline has tangible consequences: implementation of new programs is delayed. DoD and other federal agencies cannot modify or discontinue existing programs, and agency leaders begin the new fiscal year with the burden of an unpredictable budget. Congress can pass a CR, which carries over the appropriated funding set in the last fiscal

year through the date that the CR ends. For the start of FY 2022, the 117th Congress passed a CR that extended funding for federal agencies and programs through December 3, 2021.



Many TRICARE fees are increased annually by the amount of the military retired pay cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Because COLA for 2022 is higher than it has been for decades (5.9%), the dollar amounts of TRICARE fee increases will also be higher than we have seen in the recent past.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced its update to the genitourinary and cardiovascular regulations. The changes were made to ensure that these portions of the rating schedule contain current medical terminology and provide detailed and updated criteria for the evaluations related to genitourinary and cardiovascular disabilities.

The Veterans Affairs' Caregiver Support Program is presenting a month-long series of virtual events and activities celebrating Veterans' caregivers in recognition of National Family Caregivers Month. The observance is hosted by VA facilities nationwide with the intent to educate Veteran caregivers about VA programs and services, and to recognize and honor caregivers across the country.

The Department of Veterans Affairs published two notices today in the Federal Register asking for comment on VA's access (*see LEGISLATIVE REPORT page 4*)



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins



Greetings in Beautiful Autumn,

How uplifting is this season of the richness of creation in bountiful harvest of cotton, grain and fruit, the glorious colors, of red, gold, purple, indigo, and coral, vividly waving in the mellowed cooling of nature. How encouraging it is to note the seedtime developing to bring the harvest. Certainly, the seeds sown in America's Colonies developed into a nation.

The first celebration of the Colonies harvest was at Plymouth in 1621 and continued for three days, was shared with native Americans, and brought joy, peace, and provision with thanksgiving. The month of Thanksgiving offers much to be thankful for: One nation under God, Freedom, Veterans, Families, Thanksgiving Day, and many more. May we ever be mindful of the service given, the honors deserved, the faithfulness secure, and the blessings bestowed.

ROWA members have now enjoyed three luncheon meetings at The Landing in September, October, and November. A question game of Thanksgiving was given and traditions discussed with family memories of joy. The autumn theme and decorations with leaves and pumpkin brighten the day as we recalled the valor and courage of Veterans.

Members were given the opportunities to make an acrostic to share.

Valor	Victorious, courageous
Essential	Extremely important, remarkable
Tenacity	Trustworthy, quality performance

Exceptional	Example holding fast
Reliable	Responsible, steadfast
Admirably	Alert high esteem, excellent, deserving
Necessity	Needed, imperative and mandatory

ROWA approved a donation of \$400 for the Ft. Rucker Post Chapel Children's Christmas fund. Our December 14, 2021 meeting will be at The Landing. The traditional ornament exchange (\$5 each) will be continued to enjoy. The FRCS is sponsoring Wreaths Across America in honor of Veterans. The January meeting will be January 10 at The Landing. Contact/Reservations: Mary Rutkowski 334 347 4966 by the Friday before.

May your Thanksgiving and Christmas be blessed and joyful!



SILENT AUCTION!!!



Luc Belaire French Champagne and Titleist Velocity Golf Ball donation for the Silent Auction at our dinner meeting. What a way to ring in the New Year!



Ugly Christmas Sweater

For the upcoming MOAA December meeting on December 18th, we thought we might want to make things interesting by having members wear an ugly Christmas sweater. Of course, this means there will be a contest, with judging to determine the ugliest, as well as some sort of prize. All are invited to participate; however, it is not mandatory, so those not wishing to participate may wear their normal dinner attire. However, for those wishing to participate, we are really looking for some over-the-top, ugly Christmas sweaters.



2021 Officers & Directors

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TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 11/08/2021 is **\$29,440.93**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account, and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (10/11/21) Starting balance of: \$29,314.61

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
10-19-21 MOAA Dinner Receipts (\$24 Dues)		\$651.00
10-31-21 Money Market Interest		<u>10.40</u>
	Deposits Total	\$661.40

CHECKS	EXPENDITURES	
1928 10-19-21 IMWRF October MOAA Dinner		\$447.12
1929 10-31-21 Othan Gilbert (Mailing dues notices)		46.67
1930 11-06-21 Loel Ewart (Copy paper)		<u>41.29</u>
	Expenditures Total	\$535.08
	Net Increase	<u>\$126.32</u>

(10-11-21) Current Total Balance of: \$29,440.93

AllIn checking	\$4,946.49
AllIn Savings	\$5.41
AllIn Money Market	\$24,489.03

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve) -\$24,489.03

Life Membership	\$8,610.00
MOAA reserve	\$15,879.03

Minus Savings: \$5.41 \$5.41

***Usable Funds as of November 08, 2021 (Minus reserve/savings) \$4,946.49**

Other News: No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund = \$366.07

NOTE: Very Little action this month.

We are about where we should be, on the 11th month for funding.



(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from page 1) updates and new offerings. MOAA is constantly making new offerings for its members. As the COVID-19 restrictions seem to be loosening on travels here and abroad, please check out the traveling opportunities and discounts offered by MOAA.

For our Chapter's newest community service project, we will provide the beautification maintenance of the Wounded Warrior Cabin on East Beach at Lake Tholocco. This will be a quarterly project, approved by the Garrison Command and the Outdoors MWR Office. Our first rodeo will probably be in March 2022. This looks like a joint venture between us and Fort Rucker's Above the Best Silver Chapter of the US Army Warrant Officer Association (USAWOA). It will be a quick operation, probably only an hour, followed by a snack and officer fellowship afterwards. What a great way to celebrate the new year.

As always, please take care of yourselves, your families, as well as prayers and well-wishes for our men and women who are deployed keeping us safe and secure.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All,

(LEGISLATIVE REPORT from page 3) standards and standards for quality. The notices, which have been briefed to Congress, solicit public comment on VA's current access standards and standards for quality to ensure they include the most up-to-date and applicable measures for Veterans. The VA would continue to work to fully implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018 by reviewing standards for care and access standards that are a key part of that implementation and helps ensure the

VA is providing information that Veterans and caregivers need to help them make the best-informed health care decisions, so they get the care they need when and where it is appropriate.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. God bless our Service Members, Retirees, and Veterans serving around the world this holiday season!



PICTURES FROM OCTOBER 16th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



Ron Kaita (R) presenting memento to COL Robert Holcombe, guest speaker



Dick Kenyon & Dennis Newton



Robert & Jeonga Holcombe



Faye Swinehart, Carolyn Wooley, Suzanne Bailey



Dee Gilbert, Ron & Lark Kaita



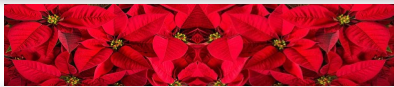
Fred Latremore & Lisa Bailly



Linda & Bob Littlefield



Dee Gilbert & Jeonga Holcombe



Susan & Don Cullen



Barbara & Loel Ewart



Robert Holcombe & Dennis Newton



Merry Christmas

Gem, flower, & color for December—Turquoise/Zircon; Narcissus/Poinsettia; green/gold/red/white/purple.

PICTURES FROM OCTOBER 16th MOAA MEETING & DINNER (continued)



Charlotte & Cecil Simmons



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Barbara Ewart & Mary Rutkowski



Lisa Bailey, MAJ (Ret) past Chapter President pins 5 Star LOE to Chapter's streamer at our dinner meeting 16 October 2021.



Merry Christmas



Lark Kaita & Dee Gilbert

WARRANT OFFICER CANDIDATE AWARDS



(Left) Leadership Awardee: WO1 Patrick D. Daniels
(Right) Distinguished Honor Graduate: WO1 Trevor R. Nelson



Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter,		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
13 Dec 21		18 Dec 21
10 Jan 22	19 Jan 22	
14 Feb 22		19 Feb 22
14 Mar 22	16 Mar 22	
11 Apr 22		16 Apr 22
9 May 22	18 May 22	
13 Jun 22		18 Jun 22
11 Jul 22	20 Jul 22	
8 Aug 22		20 Aug 22
12 Sep 22	21 Sep 22	
10 Oct 22		15 Oct 22
14 Nov 22	16 Nov 22	
12 Dec 22		17 Dec 22



(Left) Leadership Award: WO1 Chase T. Dehart
(Right) Distinguished Honor Graduate: WO1 Aaron V. Hoover

U.S. ARMY
 WARRANT OFFICER ASSOCIATION
 ABOVE THE BEST SILVER CHAPTER
 FORT RUCKER, AL 36362

PAST OR PRESENT WARRANT OFFICER?
 JOIN US IN OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS! EVERY SECOND THURSDAY

FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFO



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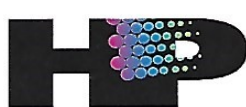
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Coffee County Arts Alliance
 — PRESENTS —

THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA Grammy Award Winning Gospel Group	Sep 30, 2021 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
"MESSIAH" SING-ALONG Community Vocalists, Soloists & Orchestra	Dec 5, 2021 6:00 pm	Enterprise High School
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA WORLD FAMOUS BIG BAND	Jan 27, 2022 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL A Tribute to Whitney Houston - Belinda Davids	Feb 17, 2022 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
SHAKESPEARE IN JAZZ ALL THE WORLD'S A SONG	Mar 24, 2022 7:00 pm	Elba High School

THE SEASON IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MAXWELL NEAL "JUG" BROWN

Tickets & Information: 334.406.ARTS (2787)
www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com



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**MOAA, Ft. Rucker Chapter
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Rucker, AL 36362-0075**

Return Service Requested



Merry Christmas

**MOAA Membership Application
Fort Rucker Chapter**



**Fort Rucker Chapter
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
PO Box 620075
Fort Rucker, AL 36362-0075**

Enclosed is my check, in accordance with the schedule below, for membership in the Fort Rucker Chapter of the *Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*.

Individual joining: 1 Dec – 28 Feb \$12.00; 1 Mar – 31 May \$9.00; 1 Jun – 31 August \$6.00; Membership 1 Sep – 30 Nov \$3.00.

NAME: _____ RANK: _____
BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PHONE: _____
SPOUSE'S NAME: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBERSHIP #__ National Life Member? _____

Membership in the National MOAA is required for membership in our local Chapter. If you are a member of National and do not know your membership number so indicate and we will obtain it from National.

Make checks payable to Fort Rucker Chapter MOAA Thank you for your support!

Web address: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org

