

February-March 2023

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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 36320
 Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH- 6:00 PM DINNER,
THE LANDING, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, FORT RUCKER, AL

SCHEDULE & MENU

Social: 6:00 PM
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM

- >Mixed Green Salad
- >Peach glazed chicken breast
- >Peas & carrots
- >Rice pilaf
- >Rolls & butter
- >Bread pudding w/Bourban vanilla sauce
- >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$23.00

Whoya Gonna Call?

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

Cash or personal checks only!

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



President's Message by Ron Kaita

I will be bold enough to say 2023 will present itself with several challenges for our chapter and our general membership. I will continue to hold the office of Chapter President since I have been unsuccessful in recruiting my replacement. Thankfully, CW5 (Ret) Randy Godfrey has accepted the position of Vice President and will be sworn in officially in next month's dinner meeting. Now that the holidays are behind us, we can now focus on the issues we are experiencing. Key amongst us is the runaway inflation and potential recession as the nation once more is reaching its debt limit. Let's pray our country's leadership can put aside their differences and put on their big boy/girl pants and hammer out a prioritized budget that truly addresses the needs of the citizens

of America and not increase the debt limit. Yes, I know...wishful thinking but so much money is spent on wasteful and pet projects that does not support the immediate security needs of our country. Ok Ron, off the soapbox but expect lots of drama at the end of the year as the 2024 election cycle begins.

On the lighter side of things, we survived a brutal cold snap as winter still lingers for a few more weeks. Be mindful of the cold mornings and warm daytime temperatures can often lead to colds and flu much less the uptick of allergy season when spring arrives. Many of our membership have experienced the struggles at Lyster Army Health Clinic and especially the Pharmacy Clinic. Trust me, they are doing the best

that they can to meet the demands of the retired community, but their first priority is the Active-Duty Soldiers and their families. Budgets are tight and manpower is in short supply. Please be understanding as long wait times and pharmacy formulas changes occur.

The good news is MOAA finished 2022 with maintaining its membership over 350,000. This is a daunting challenge as we continue to lose so many of the "Greatest Generation" and now our Vietnam Retirees and Veterans. Recruiting is essential for MOAA as our membership numbers drive the influence MOAA has with Capitol Hill on the needs of our military. MOAA National welcomes a new President and CEO LtGen (Ret) Brian Kelly (USAF) with LtGen (see **President's Message, page 2**)

(President's Message from page 1) (Ret) Dana Atkins' retirement. We are blessed to have top notch talent always in the wings for our Association. MOAA has led legislation last year that pushed several important issues for our military personnel and retirees across the finish line, but more is needed for this year's agenda. Please review our newsletter and MOAA's webpage for upcoming issues and priorities on the many needs and challenges ahead as MOAA works to protect and defend the earned benefits of our men and women in uniform and their families. Everyone in our chapters to do their part by helping the recruitment of new members for MOAA and our chapter.

Our major line of effort for MOAA is our recruitment of Warrant Officers. The US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) has started this year's slate of Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) classes. As usual, our chapter will support with the presentation of Leadership and Distinguished Honor Graduates from the WOCS. 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.

I would like to remind everyone to please check out MOAA's National homepage as to the many important updates and new offerings. MOAA is constantly making new offerings for its members so please check out the traveling opportunities and discounts offered by MOAA.

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.



Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert


Our chapter membership count is currently 127.

I regret to report that one of our members, MAJ Harry Potts, of Ozark, died 13 December. Our condolences are extended to his wife, Elaine, and other family members.

For some years I have been taking pictures at the chapter dinner meetings and storing them on my computer. They have been transferred to our website (fortrucker-moaa.org). They go back primarily to 2015 but there are some from 2009 and 2011. Go look. If you have attended any of these meetings, you will probably enjoy looking at them.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortrucker-moaa.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 (versus 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 eleven sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter, 2023		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
2-13-2023		2-18-2023 (D)
3-13-2023	3-15-2023	
4-10-2023		4-13-2023 (L)
5-8-2023	5-17-2023	
6-12-2023		6-15-2023 (L)
7-10-2023	7-19-2023	
8-14-2023		8-17-2023 (L)
9-11-2023	9-20-2023	
10-16-2023		10-21-2023 (D)
11-13-2023	11-15-2023	
12-11-2023		12-16-2023 (D)

L= Lunch on Thursdays @ 11:00. D= Dinner on Saturdays @ 1800.



Ft. Rucker MOAA Chapter Donates to Ft. Rucker's Holiday Food Assistance Program.

The Fort Rucker Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) recently donated \$500 to the Fort Rucker Holiday Food Assistance Program to benefit the Fort Rucker military community. This program is administered by the Army Emergency Relief (AER) department at Fort Rucker. Pictured are Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Loel Ewart, the chapter treasurer, and Mrs. Jo Anne Close, who is an Army Emergency Relief Officer/Financial Counselor with AER. 16 Dec 2022



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

A new beginning, a new year is given to us as the month of January begins on the threshold that reflects the former memories and envisions the months to come throughout the year which holds the freshness of joy, faith, courage, friendships, opportunities, plans, decisions, work, increase, choices, travels, and treasures.

The new beginning was a new treasure given from the most-high light of Christmas which brought the gift of the Christ Child and the beginning of a new divine leader that would bring heaven to earth from year to year. From December 25 to January 6, the 12 days of Christmas is completed. The Three Kings had traveled to give gifts to Christ in the time of Epiphany which is a celebration of the Christ Child, a festival of joy and celebration.

It is interesting that the first full moon in 2023 was glowing in the night sky on Friday, January 6 with a brilliant beginning in a new year stargazing. January holds many treasures. In history, the deep red garnet stone was considered a symbol of love, faithfulness, friendship, constancy, and protection. In biblical legend Noah used a garnet gem on the Ark as a source of light. The garnet gemstones dates back to the Bronze Age. In the Middle Ages, garnets were known for health cures. January has many interesting points to note, such as the season of beautiful snow abiding silently in a winter wonderland.

The ROWA members, however, seldom see snow in our South Alabama, but appreciate the soon to come flowers after winter. Christmas and New Year decorations were enjoyed as well as a game with ornaments shared.

We enjoyed our Christmas and January meetings along with the MOAA Christmas dinner. Our next meetings include Feb. 14 at 11a.m. and March 14 at 11 am at The Landing. Reservations are to Mary Rutkowski 334-347-4966. Guest are invited. Happy New Year!

"What shall I wish thee that shall ensure thee a Happy New Year?"

Faith that increaseth, Walking in light, Hope that aboundeth,

Happy and bright, Love that is perfect, Casting out fear,

These shall insure 'A Happy New Year.'"

Author F.R. Havergal



Legislative Report

by Ray Collins



Much of, if not all of, my report today is a rehash, a review, a reminder of what we have been hearing from the military alliance, to include MOAA, for months at minimum but more accurately for years. This is in no way intended as an indictment of the military alliance. I shudder to think where the military forces of this country would be were it not for the countless hours which these MOAA led activist have devoted to supporting the only force which keeps the "wolves" of this world at bay.

A concerted effort is being made to insure that the military will be paid at a rate more in line with compensation for similar civilian (private) work force positions. Shamefully we have to continue pressuring congress to insure that the National Defense Authorization Act contains wording so that all of the eight military entities be paid during government shutdowns, which obviously is now the norm. For the umpteenth iteration we must engage the powers that be to enact legislation which will allow concurrent receipt.

Housing for military families must be pushed once again to chip away at the inequities which exist in comparison to what the civil sector enjoys. Due to housing shortages in most areas, deficiencies in BAH and the transient housing needs many military families are living in less than desirable housing or subsidizing from their earned income (\$200 and up).

Within the Health Care arena DOD must continue the hold on medical billet reductions. No matter what the experts may say there is no area of health care that can absorb cuts without negative impact on the beneficiaries and as hard as it is to admit more importantly, readiness. In all honesty DOD is the chief predator on health care resources. Several issues in the TRICARE system need immediate attention not the least of which the pharmacy and young adult family member care.

The military family support initiatives must include spousal employment assistance, realistic Basic Needs Allowance and accessible affordable child care options.

If you have never looked into it or experienced the loss of a military family member, active or veteran, you may not realize that the U.S. government can't afford to give the family their last check. Changes must be made to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

TREASURER'S REPORT *by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart*



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Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 01/09/2023 is **\$28,159.02**.
These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money
Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (12/12/22) **Starting balance of;** **\$29,582.96**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
12/14/22	Annual Dues (2 Members 2023)	\$24.00
12/19/22	MOAA Christmas Dinner Receipts ($\$117$ Scholarship, $\$48$ dues 2023), Silent Auction	1106.00
01/03/23	Annual dues (2 Members 2023)	<u>24.00</u>
Deposits Total		\$1154.00

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
1963 12/13/22	Mary Rutkowski (6 Dinner table center pieces)	\$247.64
1964 12/16/22	Army Gift Fund (Ft. Rucker food bank)	500.00
1965 12/19/22	IMWRF (Christmas Dinner)	950.30
1966 12/23/22	MOAA National (Scholarship Fund)	500.00
1967 01/01/23	ALCOC (MOAA National Annual Dues)	136.00
1968 01/03/23	Mrs. Elaine Potts (Deceased- return of dues)	170.00
1969 01/03/23	USPS (Ft. Rucker P.O. Box Rent)	<u>74.00</u>
Expenditures Total		\$2,577.94
Net Decrease		\$1,423.94

(01/09 /23) Current Total Balance of;	\$28,159.02
All In checking	\$6,591.76
All In Savings	\$5.41
All In Money Market	\$21,561.85

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	\$21,561.85
Life Membership	\$8,170.00
MOAA reserve,	\$13,391.85
Minus Savings:	-\$5.41

***Usable Funds as of January 9 (Minus reserve/savings)** **\$6,591.76**
Other News*No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$0.00



WO1 Larry E. Moore (L), the Leadership Awardee of Class 23-04, as the student demonstrating the highest leadership attributes.
WO1 Brandon S. Billings (R) the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Class 23-04, as the student with the highest class standing.

TRICARE For Life Benefit Targeted by Congressional Budget Office Report by Karen Ruedisueli (from MOAA email 1/12/2023) (from MOAA email newsletter, 1-12-2023)
A biennial report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) takes aim at TRICARE For Life (TFL), offering two proposals among its options to cut the deficit that would significantly increase costs for seniors using the TFL benefit. Both TFL options would reduce the federal government's mandatory spending via unacceptable plans to shift health care costs from DoD to uniformed services retirees. While these are not legislative proposals, MOAA believes we must address them as serious threats given recent cuts to the TRICARE pharmacy program and the series of TRICARE fee increases associated with military health system reforms. **Join us by telling your lawmaker to reject the CBO's TFL proposals.**

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Photos from December 17, 2022 Christmas Dinner



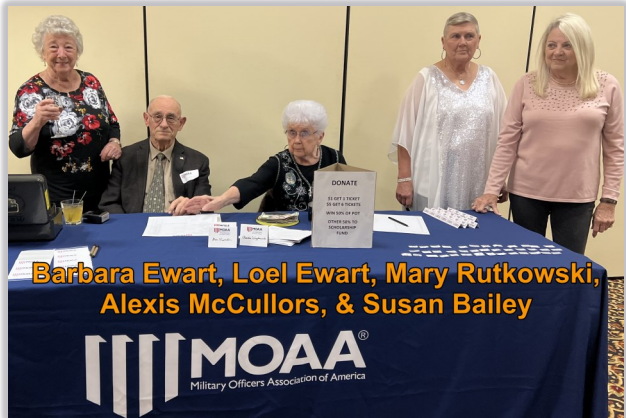
Ron Kaita & Charlie Wigglesworth pinning MOAA National Award on Chapter guidon.



The Gathering



The Rest of the Gathering



Barbara Ewart, Loel Ewart, Mary Rutkowski, Alexis McCullors, & Susan Bailey



Charlie & Claudia Wigglesworth



Lark & Ron Kaita



Russell Smith & Jennifer Wolf



Dennis & Rose Bergstrazer



Dennis Newton Lou Hennies



Susan Bailey Dick Kenyon Alexis McCullors

Photos from December 17th, 2022 Christmas Dinner



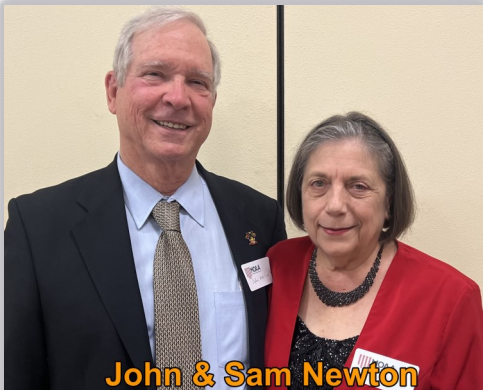
Faye Swinehart Martha McKee



Fred Draper & Dee Gilbert



Shelly & Paul English



John & Sam Newton



Lenore Case & Carolyn Wooley



Loel & Barbara Ewart



Lou & Connie Hennies

HAPPY Valentine's Day!



Dick Kenyon
Mary Rutkowski Alexis McCullors



Othan & Dee Gilbert



Benny & Peggy Jones



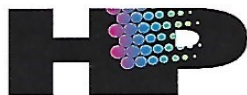
Carolyn Wooley, John & Sam Newton, & Dee Gilbert



Ron and Dennis demonstrating their musical skills.

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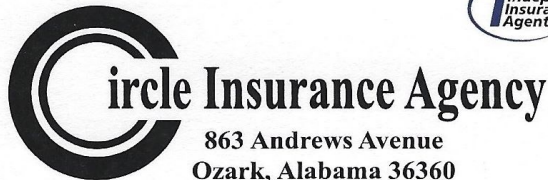
Coffee County Arts Alliance

— PRESENTS —

MESSIAH A COMMUNITY CHORAL PRESENTATION	Dec 4, 2022 5:00 pm	First Baptist Church Enterprise
FOREVER YOUNG Your Life - Your Music	Feb 7, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
ATLANTA POPS ORCHESTRA AN IRISH HEART WITH Chloë Agnew	Mar 3, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
RESURRECTION - A JOURNEY TRIBUTE The Best of Journey	Apr 4, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 22 & 23 2023	ESCC



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



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

Return Service Requested

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