

A Message from the President

Charlie Wigglesworth



More Baggers? Commissary testing bagger free lanes and after that even more articles on the commissary. If you are not subscribing to this free on-line service, I encourage you to look into it.

One more item to think about as you are out and about in the area. Think like a recruiter! MOAA, both nationally and locally is looking for new members to join our ranks. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. Have your “Elevator Speech” ready and encourage those officers and former officers to join the most powerful member of the Military Coalition that fights for our benefits. This is a quote from the MOAA National website. **“MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.”**

Well, Claudia and I are off to our next adventure in June! The Sequoia National Forest and Death Valley!

As always, keep all of our military members who stand on the front lines for the freedoms we enjoy each day in your prayers.

Greetings from the banks of Lake Guntersville, Alabama. Claudia had a Lions Club State Convention to attend so we packed the RV and headed to Lake Guntersville State Park. If you voted for Amendment 2 during the last election, you can see the positive results of your vote. It is true about the great State of Alabama, from the northern end of the state along the banks of the Tennessee River, to the Wiregrass and Gulf Shores area, from Eufaula to the Tennessee-Tom Bigbee Waterway Visitor Center in Pickensville, we truly do live in a beautiful state! I encourage you to take the time to visit the many sites in “Sweet Home Alabama.”

I received an email today for MOAA. The subject is “The MOAA Newsletter.” As members of MOAA, each of you can receive this newsletter on-line. It gives us updates on what is going on that affects our military and retirees. The 26 April 2018 newsletter addressed such news items as Running Out of Room at Arlington, the withdrawal of Rear Admiral Jackson as VA Secretary, Personnel Chiefs talking retention concerns as Pentagon rolls out new retirement system, MOAA members Storming Capitol Hill, fight for Servicemembers Pay and Benefits, and exchanges resist plan to merge with faltering commissaries. The last one really caught my attention. I drilled down into the subject and found more articles about the commissary, like commissaries to rollout handy new price search tool. After reading the article I found more articles like “Commissary 101,” No

Legislative Report

by
Dennis Newton

Currently there are several bills in Congress. You should look these over and send an email to show your support for providing better benefits for medical retirees and survivor benefits. The link is below. The MOAA website begins the discussion on the upcoming Quadrennial Review:

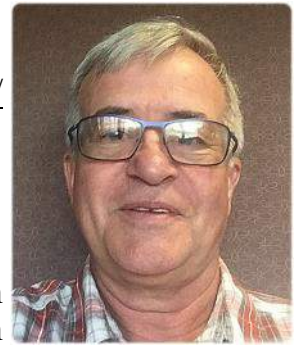
Compensation is Crucial to Recruitment and Retention

Don't keep chipping away at military compensation

The president has requested DoD commence with the 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) to assess the adequacy of military compensation and, essentially, decide if a salary system would be more effective for recruiting and retention.

This study will result in a report to Congress focusing on the potential for a salary system. The concern is whether or not it will be used to reduce military compensation in any way.

Read the rest at: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?3&engagementId=400073>



Keeping an eye on Service Compensation and on Retirement Benefits is an essential mission of MOAA. As MOAA does its part, you, also, need to be involved as a member of this organization. It is in having a large number of members that MOAA is able to use its strength to maintain our benefits. There have been many efforts to cut the expenses associated with supporting retirees in order to put money into other (see below) budgetary areas. This is shortsighted since it discourages retention and recruitment. In the end the defense of this country is hindered. Keep Congress informed of your needs and keep your membership in MOAA up to date for a strong future.

Dennis R. Newton
Legislative Affairs,
MOAA Fort Rucker Chapter

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Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert

MOAA National has found that the best prospects for chapter membership are those officers who are life members of National which reflects commitment to MOAA and its mission. Based on information from National, there are quite a few MOAA National life members who live in this area that are not chapter members. Recently we received an updated list of about 100 such officers who are life members of National but are not members of this chapter. At a recent board meeting it was decided to offer free chapter memberships to these officers from the present through December 2019. By the time you read this, letters and chapter membership applications



will have been mailed to them. It is hoped that those that accept our offer will integrate into our chapter and continue their membership after 2019.

Next time you meet one of your officer friends, ask them if they are a member of MOAA. If they are, see if you can convince them to join the chapter. A chapter membership form can be found on our chapter web site. Remember, membership with MOAA National is a prerequisite for chapter membership.

Remember the national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortruckermoaa.org. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

Othan Gilbert
Membership Chair

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Treasurer's Report

by
Loel Ewart



Treasurers Report:

Date (as of): Monday; May 14, 2018

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 05/14/2018 is, **\$27,002.50** These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union (AACFCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (04/09/18) **Starting balance of; \$27,522.49**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
04/26/18	MOAA National (wire transfer)	\$50.00
04/30/18	Money Market Interest (Apr)	5.94
Deposits Total		<u>\$55.94</u>

CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
1811 04/11/18	Sam's Club (Office supplies, (printing paper)	\$32.68
1812 04/11/18	Dothan Daily Mail (Mailing Apr NL)	84.96
1813 04/13/18	USAWOCC (Cup & Flower Fund)	200.00
1814 04/16/18	Houston Printing (Apr NL printing)	118.81
1815 05/10/18	Sam's Club (office supplies (printing ink)	139.48

Expenditures Total **\$575.93**

Net Decrease **\$519.99**

(05/14/18) **Current Total Balance of; \$27,002.50**

A ACFCU checking, \$2,917.87

AACFCU Savings, \$5.41

AACFCU Money Market \$24,079.22

Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve); -\$24,079.22

Life Membership, \$10,880.00

MOAA reserve, \$13,199.22

Minus Savings: \$5.41 -\$5.41

******Usable Funds as May 14, 2018 (Minus reserve/savings) \$2,917.87**

Other News * No outstanding bills.

* Scholarship fund- \$139.00.

Loel Ewart

Treasurer

SBP Premiums & CRSC

If you receive Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and have the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), you may see a change in your net pay and statements starting in April. Beginning with the SBP premiums in April, DFAS will start deducting SBP premiums from CRSC when retired pay is not sufficient to cover the full amount of premiums. This new deduction is due to a change in the law which requires DFAS to deduct SBP premiums from CRSC. See <https://www.dfas.mil> for more information. [Extracted from *Army Echos*, Feb.-May, 2018.]



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Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

Greetings Everyone,

April showers have truly brought us those beautiful flowers adorning the landscapes to pave the way for summer. The increased temperatures always arrive early, reminding us to have closets prepared with hats and lighter clothing available. Traditionally this time of year we also prepare with spring cleaning. That was the theme for ROWA's term closing May luncheon at The Landing. The elected officers were installed by the outgoing President Sam Newton who followed the order of installation from an earlier period of ROWA's history. Some of the history was highlighted and the charter members in attendance were recognized. Decorations reflected a time for leisure and vacation during the months of summer.

Prior to this the April meeting, decorated with figures of springtime bunnies and bears, emphasized the garden theme, promising new growth, awakening beauty, and refreshing possibilities. As with the variety of plants, gardens nurture us in various ways for they feed body and soul. It has been said that, "Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years." (Unknown) Claude Monet thought that his garden was his most beautiful masterpiece. Cicero observed that if you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. We can relate to these concepts with military duty assignments throughout the world enabling us to visit gardens from our own to some of the most spectacular.

Alabama is celebrating

something spectacular currently, during a three-year period from 2017 through 2019. That is the Bicentennial, referred to as Alabama 200. Ozark in Dale County has the honor to host the Alabama Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit from June 9 to June 23, displaying 200 years of history at the Dowling Museum-Ann Rudd Art Center from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

In addition to gardening and viewing the Exhibit, some of ROWA's members will be enjoying vacations and visiting or hosting family members during the summer months. ROWA will have a planning meeting for the next term and reconvene September 4. May your summer be blessed, nourishing, and restful!



ROWA Officers (L to R): Carol Lee Dawson (President), Esse Muskopf (VP), Karen Morales (Secretary), Dot Bledsole (Treasurer)



Aloha ROWA with Mrs. William Gayler (Center)

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Chaplain's Corner by Ben McKee

Some years ago I preached a sermon, "He speaks from the Grave" for a Memorial Day service at the Church I served at the time. The text for the sermon was Hebrews 11: 4, where the writer says of Abel, "He being dead yet speaketh." I cannot remember all the points and will not attempt to re-preach the sermon in this short devotion; however, with Memorial Day coming or just having passed when you read this, I do want to dwell on that subject for a few lines.

At home in Oklahoma this special day is called "Decoration Day" for that is the day when the families of the deceased come to the cemetery, decorate the graves, and have dinner on the grounds reminiscing about their loved ones who have gone on before. Many a time as a young boy I can remember those old saints saying, "I can just hear old Ed" (or Jim, or Louise, or whomever) saying....." or "Can't you just hear Mae speaking to us about"

Yes, it does seem that those who have preceded us in death still speak to us today. Every day that we live, we live out the things we were taught by our parents. My Christian Mother taught me the precepts and principles of God from the Bible, else I would have never been called to preach the Word, and attend seminary where professors could instruct me in church administration and operation. Many times that still small voice of my Mom has softly spoken within my brain to allow me to defuse some controversy between others--and a thousand times over in making the right decision in spiritual matters. She still speaks from the grave. My Dad was a tough farmer—an astute business man. He had no patience with anyone who disobeyed the law. He was firm in his business relations and taught me well. I have not always been as strict in my business dealings with others as he, but you can bet I could hear his voice over my shoulder warning me when I was about to give in to something that was wrong for me or my family. He sill speaks from the grave. For many of

us it is true that though our parents are dead, they still speak. They influence our lives every day. Unconsciously it may be, that we still seek their approval in the things we do. May God grant unto us to pass on to our children the heritage our parents passed on to us.



It is profoundly true that many a teacher being dead, yet still speaks through his former pupils. A good teacher is always immortal in someone's life. Having taught for 28 years at the Warrant Officer Career College—11 years a military instructor and another 17 as a civilian instructor—I beam with joy when a former student mentions something I taught him or her. To have influenced someone's life in a positive way cannot help but make one's life seem worthwhile. I loved to see the light come on in a student's eyes when I realized he or she had grasp a tenet I was teaching. I pray that some will remember and utilize the things I taught in Leadership, Management, Writing, Speaking, and Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills. I, like others, hope that I will speak to some beyond my years on earth.

I could not help but wonder as I prepared for this topic what our veterans who have sacrificed their lives for this country would say if they could speak from their graves today. What advice would they give us in handling the problems in our society, our military, and our government. Have they spoken to you? And if so, what was their advice or what actions do you think they would take if they were in our shoes—Just a thought.

And what will you say from the grave? What will you leave for others to use to help them cope with life as they face it long after you are gone? Every person leaves something of him or herself in the world. Being dead, you will speak. May what we leave in this world be something positive that will continue to speak to others. Have a blessed Memorial (Decoration) Day!

Award Winning Author

GINGER HANSON

Ginger won her first writing contest with a short story about her puppy when she was 12 years old. Encouraged by winning a pen set, she decided to become a writer. This decision led her to take journalism and creative writing classes while in college. Her personal essays, short stories, and articles have appeared in various newspapers, magazines, and newsletters. In addition, she also worked as a clean-up writer/copy editor on Federal Aviation Administration handbooks.



A history major in college, she married her love of storytelling with the past to write her first novel. Set in Roman England, not one of the many publishers she contacted fell in love with it. Several manuscripts later, a major publishing house published her two Civil War historical romances.

Ginger ventured into the Regency period with her third published novel. Two books and a short story marked the start of her ongoing contemporary sweet romance Tassasnoxie series with a novella and short story added when she began e-publishing her work. While her historical romances tend to be sensual and action-packed, her sweet romances, feature the lives and loves of everyday people living in the imaginary town of Tassanoxie, Alabama. The home of second chances at love, this small-town setting was an easy choice because Ginger lives in southeast Alabama with her husband and various rescued pets.

She also continues to write humorous essays and is delighted e-publishing has allowed her to publish them. Last year, she added a writing skills e-book to her list and hopes to soon add others based on the workshops she's presented.

PICTURES FROM MAY 19th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



Libby Harper Charlie Wigglesworth



Lisa Bailey James Kale



Russell Smith James Rathburn



Bert Block
Karen Morales Rhonda Gilbert



Claudia & Charlie Wigglesworth Frank Estes



Nancy & James Rathburn



Ben & Martha McKee



Don Cullen Shelly English Clark Burnett Barbara Ewart Mary Apel

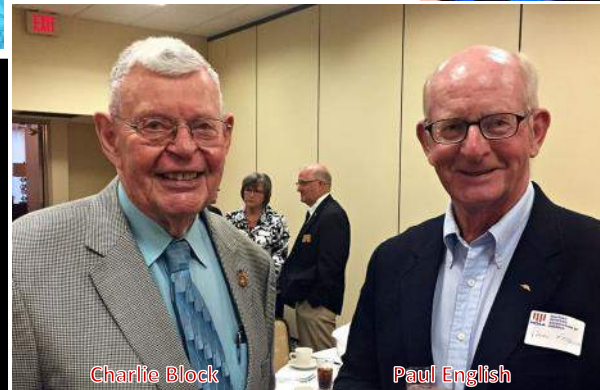


Cecil & Charlotte Simmons



Carolyn Wooley Dee Gilbert

THANKS
To all who attended and supported our event. You are the lifeblood of our Fort Rucker MOAA Chapter.



Charlie Block Paul English

Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter Calendar Year 2018



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
14 May	16 May	19 May
11 June		16 June
9 July	18 July	
13 August		18 August
10 September	19 September	
15 October		20 October
12 November	21 November	
10 December		15 December

INCREASE TO TRICARE PHARMACY COPAYMENTS ARE HERE!

Washington—On February 1, 2018, copayments for prescription drugs at TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery and retail pharmacies increased. These changes are required by law and affect TRICARE beneficiaries who are not active duty service members. While retail pharmacy and home delivery copayments will increase, prescriptions filled at military pharmacies remain available at no cost. You can save the most money by filling your prescriptions at military pharmacies. Using home delivery, the copayments for a 90-day supply of generic formulary drugs will increase from \$0

to \$7. For brand-name formulary drugs, copayments will increase from \$20 to \$24, and copayments for non-formulary drugs without a medical necessity will increase from \$49 to \$53.

At retail network pharmacy, copayments for a 30-day supply of generic formulary drugs will increase from \$10 to \$11 and from \$24 to \$28 for brand-name formulary drugs. If you want a 90-day supply from your network pharmacy, you'll pay the cost for each 30-day supply. Copayments remain the same as 2017 rates for dependent survivors of Active Duty Service Members and medically retired service members and their dependents. Visit www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts for more information.

[Extracted from *Army Echos*, Feb-May 2018.]

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Fort Rucker Chapter**

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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.

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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