

August 2022

ILCouncilMOAA.org

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Never Stop Serving!!!

*“NEVER
STOP
SERVING”*



President's column

Summer greetings! The MOAA National e-blast on our reorganization went out, and the response from the nearly 6,000 MOAA members in Illinois was underwhelming. What that tells us is we need to consider our “marketing” options. As that will be a discussion topic for our September Council meeting, please think about how we might address our membership and communication challenges. Speaking of the September 17th meeting, we are looking forward to meeting at my place. The ladies may want to check out Decatur’s “Art in the Park” event downtown while we meet.

Check out the legislative report as the Toxic Exposure Bill is still working its way through Congress (I’m hopeful it will be signed by the time you get this!). The working NDAA contains the 4.6% pay raise, but Congress continues to work on the final language. So, as always remain vigilant.

I hope to share the State Fair experience with several of you on August 14, and I was pleased to see other MOAA members at the Medal of Highway designation / flag passing ceremony in LaGrange – check out the pictures on the council webpage. Both events are opportunities to promote the MOAA branding and show our commitment to being a voice for service members.

Let’s keep the ideas coming and continue leaning forward as we *Never Stop Serving!*

Semper Fi – Bob Tyler

From the Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator

I received a very beneficial resource via email last week that I think you will find equally beneficial. It is called DoD MWR Libraries (www.dodmwrlibraries.org). It is a digital library of information for just about anything and for any age – Genealogy, gardening, peer-reviewed research, travel, culinary arts, entrepreneurship, do-it-yourself instruction for many topics, tutoring, learning a new language, digital and audio books, and music, plus much more!

Since this is a collection of resources created by the Department of Defense (DoD), you can rest assured that the sites have been properly vetted. Best of all, it is free and available to military ID card holders. Below are the eligibility requirements for access:

Active-duty military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard)

Members of the Reserve components and National Guard

Retired military, including retired from the Reserves and National Guard

Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with 100% service-connected disabilities

Eligible family members who are officially sponsored (ID card holder) by authorized patrons in the above categories

DOD and Coast Guard civilians, including appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees, when stationed outside the United States, stateside eligibility contingent upon resource availability

Since I know how busy people get, for your convenience, I have taken information directly from the website for you to read ahead of visiting the website so that you can see that it is absolutely worth a visit! Topics within the digital library include the following:

Biography & Genealogy includes:

Ancestry offers access to billions of names from more than 4,000 genealogical databases.

Censuses from the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom (U.K.) Ireland, and more than 150 million military records are available.

FOLD3 allows users access to US military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of those who served from the Revolutionary War onward.

Gale in Context offers access to thousands of both contemporary and historical biographies.

Children's Corner includes:

Bookflix from Scholastic is a digital literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction titles to reinforce early reading skills and develop real-world knowledge.

EBSCO Cricket Media provides high-quality print and online learning products for children, families, mentors, teachers, and partners that improve learning opportunities for everyone.

Explora Primary from EBSCO supports both student research and classroom instruction with rich, reliable content and easy-to-use functionality.

FreedomFlix from Scholastic offers a behind-the-scenes look at the people, places, and events that shape our world. Videos are paired with nonfiction titles to capture the imagination of even the most reluctant readers.

Gale In Context: Elementary provides a popular, child-friendly learning resource with a variety of subjects and an intuitive digital experience to that makes learning fun.

Gale In Context: Middle School combines the best reference content with age-appropriate videos, newspapers, and magazines.

Miss Humblebee's Academy offers an award-winning curriculum that prepares children ages 3 to 6 for kindergarten proficiency.

National Geographic Kids provides interactive science and archaeology learning resources for educators and children.

NoveList Plus K-8 is designed for younger readers and helps children find books that are just right for their reading level and interests.

Scholastic Teachables – (PreK – 6th Grade) Scholastic Teachables offers printable activities for any subject: math, science, reading comprehension, STEM, writing, and beyond. Download printable lesson plans, reading passages, games and puzzles, clip art, bulletin board ideas, teacher supports, and skills sheets. Over 25,000 teacher-created, vetted printables to support your instruction.

TrueFlix – (grades 3-5) brings award-winning True Books to Life to help students master Social Studies and Science content knowledge through literacy!

Tutor.com provides online tutoring and homework help for the U.S. military, Department of Defense staff and their families 24/7.

World Book Activity Corner provides thousands of fun, cost-effective, hands-on activities with easy instructions.

World Book Early Learning is the perfect tool for young readers to explore with short videos, read-aloud stories, printable activities, and games kids love.

World Book Kids provides ideal learning resources for elementary-aged students designed to build confidence and encourage creativity with image-driven and inquiry-based activities.

Continuing Education

ArtistWorks for Libraries is part of the *Overdrive* collections and provides world-class instruction with self-paced videos from award winning musicians and artists. Explore this resource on a mobile device with the Libby app.

EBSCO LearningExpress provides interactive tutorials, practice tests, e-books, flashcards and articles for academic skill-building, career advancement and standardized test preparation.

Gale OneFile: Vocations and Careers provides guides, specialized industry journals, and educational information for career exploration.

Great Courses is part of the Overdrive collections and offers access to hundreds of courses taught by internationally recognized university faculty members. Explore this resource on a mobile device with the Libby app.

Mango Languages offers over 70 languages and provides the 6 critical skills for learning a new language: Vocabulary, Grammar, Pronunciation, Culture, Comprehension, and Retention.

O'Reilly provides world class business and technology interactive trainings to individuals, teams, and businesses.

Universal Class provides online continuing education courses on a variety of subjects.

World Book Student is an interactive encyclopedia that comes to life through this digital format and provides a one-stop shop for cross-curricular learning.

Do-it-Yourself

Gale Chilton Library provides step-by-step automotive repair procedures. Includes manufacturer recommended maintenance schedules and recalls.

Gale OneFile: Entrepreneurship provides more than 500 subject related, full-text periodicals.

Gale Business: Plan Builder offers a successful step-by-step strategy for building a successful business.

Gale OneFile: Culinary Arts offers more than five million articles from more than 250 major cooking and nutrition magazines.

Gale OneFile: Gardening and Horticulture serves horticultural enthusiasts of all levels with more than 3.6 million articles from more than 100 journals.

Gale OneFile: Home Improvement has millions of articles with topics that include DIY projects, architectural techniques, and material selections.

Gale OneFile: Hospitality and Tourism offers the curious traveler information about state parks, vacationing, and travel guides.

Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center provides detailed instructions and creative ideas to meet the interests of hobby enthusiasts.

Home Improvement Reference Center features content from leading home improvement magazines, books, and more.

Small Engine Repair Reference Center provides over 400 reference books with original photos and illustrations for small engine repair assistance and detailed, user-friendly repair guides.

World Book Dramatic Learning provides a robust collection of popular plays with everything needed to put on a production.

eBooks & Audiobooks

EBSCO eBooks offers a variety of topics such as self-help, hobbies, and cooking. Audiobooks and other EBSCO products may also be reviewed from this resource.

Gale eBooks provides access to thousands of full-text eBooks in a variety of genres. This resource is cross-searchable with other Gale provided products.

NovelList Plus has been helping readers find their next favorite book for more than 25 years and continues to develop innovative solutions for connecting readers, books, and libraries.

Overdrive provides access to eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. Best sellers and classics are included. For optimal user experience, download the Libby app onto your personal device.

World Book eBooks provides a digital library for all ages and reading levels. Find picture books, graphic novels, chapter books and classic titles.

Newspapers & Magazines

Digital Comics and Graphic Novels is part of the Overdrive collection. Explore these resources from a mobile device with the Libby app.

Digital Magazines is part of the Overdrive collection. Thousands of current and back issues are offered. Explore these resources from a mobile device with the Libby app.

Gale OneFile: Popular Magazines provides access to the most circulated magazines in digital format.

National Geographic Magazine is an American monthly magazine published by the National Geographic Society best known for photojournalism.

PressReader delivers digital access to over 7,000 full-text, full-page format newspapers and magazines from more than 120 countries in over 60 different languages.

The Wall Street Journal provides breaking news and analysis from the U.S. and around the world.

World Book Advanced is a highly vetted, concise resource to check the facts. Live news feeds to world newspapers and primary source documents are included. *(Another favorite of mine. It helps me sort through the media bias!)*

Reference & Research *(My personal favorite – I'm an information junkie for peer-reviewed research, lol.)*

This section had far too many research and reference resources to copy and past for this column. Trust me when I say, if you cannot find it here, chances are, it doesn't exist!

Science & Technology

Gale In Context: Science is updated daily and offers over 600 pages on topics across the curriculum, covering biology, chemistry, earth and environmental science, physics, and more.

Gale OneFile: Health and Medicine was created for students, consumer health researchers, and health care professionals that provides up-to-date information on the complete range of health care topics.

Gale OneFile: Information Science is updated daily with articles covering all aspects of managing and maintaining information and technology, including usability, cataloging, circulation, and more.

Military Officers Association of America

Issue #2022-04

Gale OneFile: Science provides researchers with information on latest scientific developments in particle physics, advanced mathematics, nanotechnology, geology, and hundreds of other areas.

GreenFILE from EBSCO offers well-researched information covering all aspects of human impact to the environment. Titles include content on global warming, green building, pollution, renewable energy, recycling, and more.

Streaming Music & Video (*Another favorite of mine!*)

Freegal from *Library Ideas LLC* offers access to about 15 million songs and over 40,000 music videos.

Select from over 30,000 thousand award-winning films and documentaries available from **Kanopy**. Classic-films, world cinema, popular movies, plus a whole lot more educational and entertainment films to choose from. Access from anywhere, anytime, with any device.

ScienceFlix – (grades 4-10 with STEM Middle/HS focus) – Science for the Next Generation!

I hope you find this “resource of resources” as beneficial as I do. Feel free to share it with other Military ID card holders. Again, there is something here for everyone of any age!

As always, if I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Chaplain's Column

Surviving Spouse Corner: Get Involved in MOAA's Advocacy Efforts—Surviving spouses play an important role in educating elected officials about key legislation. *By [Dr. Vivianne Wersel](#), MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member*

This spring, MOAA members contacted all 535 members of Congress during the association's annual Advocacy in Action event, conducting more than 235 meetings and sending over 7,500 letters. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the challenges of security on Capitol Hill, MOAA members met with their elected officials either in face-to-face or virtual meetings. MOAA's three legislative priorities were supporting the Major Richard Star Act, supporting the Stop Copay Overpay Act; and ensuring a competitive military pay raise.

Why get involved with Advocacy in Action? Volunteers are well trained to understand the process of setting up meetings and communicating with elected officials as well as having a better understanding of legislation. In addition, participation cultivates relationships with staffers and members of Congress from your district and state. The experience you gain is beneficial to help support other legislation as a constituent or with a group to help improve survivor benefits. Military survivors are the stakeholders to the legislation at large. Congress continuously adjusts military survivor benefits. It is important surviving spouse members exercise their rights to educate staffers and members of Congress and remain vigilant to protect and improve survivor benefits. MOAA headquarters' staff does an outstanding job educating members so they can participate in grassroots advocacy efforts.

Here are some ways to contribute and keep MOAA's priorities on Congress' radar:

Send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill using MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#).

- Call elected officials using MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 1-866-272-6622.
- Engage with congressional members via social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Stay current with MOAA's legislative efforts and subscribe to *The MOAA Newsletter*. Customize your letters and conversations with elected officials; embed a personal story.

Congress will act only if they are inspired by their voters. Join MOAA's effort to help improve benefits for military, veterans, retirees, family, and survivors.

Blessings to all, Chaplain Woehrmann

MOAA accomplishments in 2021

- Repealing SBP-DIC offset, known as the ‘Widows Tax’ – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.
- Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD’s health care – protecting continued access to quality care.*
- Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.*
- Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.*
- Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).*
- Maintaining pay raise comparability – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.*
- Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.*
- Defeating ‘COLA Minus 1 Percent’ – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.*
- Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.*
- Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.*
- Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage – and securing a premium cut.
- Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service – now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

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15 December 2021 supersedes 1 September 2021

Who to Contact for membership in the applicable Chapter

If you wish to join a local chapter, contact the Chapter President listed above and they will get you in touch with a Chapter Membership Chair.

MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

10 Tips to Help Retain Chapter Members

These strategies can help MOAA chapters combat the challenge of retaining their members.

Though many affiliates work hard to recruit new members, they sometimes forget about the equally important challenge of retention.

Don't negate all your hard work to increase your chapter's membership. To help retain members, consider these 10 tips:

- Vary programs and events and meeting times and days to meet member needs.
- Invite relevant speakers, such as legislators or city officials, to chapter meetings.
- Organize special events and raffles, gift exchanges, etc.
- Recognize the accomplishments of members by publishing their biographies on your website or in your newsletter.
- Offer community service opportunities to bring members together to achieve a goal.
- Provide opportunities for involvement on short-term, one-time-only projects and special issues.
- Keep costs economical, but don't let price be the driver of what type of activity to hold.
- Provide invoices for dues paid by members.
- Offer ride-sharing programs to chapter activities.
- Contact inactive members before terminating their chapter membership.

The Council has a new website. Address is <http://www.ilcouncilmoaa.org>

If you have any items or input for the website, contact MAJ (USAF, Ret) Dave Knieriem at the following email address: dknieriem@casscomm.com

MOAA Store and ROTC/Junior ROTC Items

The MOAA store has re-opened at <https://moaa.estore.shop/>. In addition to promotional gear, you can find ROTC and Junior ROTC (JROTC) award certificates (in stock now) and medals (place orders now for backorders to be shipped when medals are in stock, expected by the end of April). Electronic certificates may be customized and downloaded [online](#) at any time. Note that medals have been updated to reflect all eight uniformed services, and JROTC certificates have been updated with language more appropriate to high school students rather than ROTC students.

The cost of medals to affiliates will remain at \$3.00 per medal due to a MOAA subsidy. Additionally, the store recently added the USPS live rate to shipping options, providing a lower-cost alternative.

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MOAA Legislative Action Center

You can help MOAA by visiting their legislative action center and contacting your elected officials regarding pending legislation MOAA is working. You can reach the Legislative Action Center at the following email address: take.action.moaa.org

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for 2022

- Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRI-CARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.
- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.

Reasons to Join a MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter!

But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system.

Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member.

Find out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them:

1. **Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.
2. **Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.
3. **Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
4. **Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
5. **Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
6. **Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.
7. **Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.

Council of Chapters

New Website

The Council has a new website. Address is <http://www.ilcouncilmoaa.org>

If you have any items or input for the website, contact MAJ (USAF, Ret) Dave Knieriem at the following email address: dknieriem@casscomm.com

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby—and does so actively—its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Stated briefly: the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties. This newsletter follows the policies of MOAA National.



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The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the **MOAA Scholarship Fund** in 1948 to provide educational assistance benefits to children of military families. It supports one of the association's founding principles: ***education is the cornerstone of a strong democracy***. It is funded by donations from MOAA members, Councils and Chapters, corporations, and others with a desire to help military families. For additional details, go to the MOAA website at **MOAA.org**

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The Greatest Casualty is
Being Forgotten!

Now and Always
We'll be There.



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