



Official Publication of Central Illinois Chapter IL33,  
ROA & Heart of Illinois Chapter IL09, MOAA



(DBA Reserve Organization of America)

# PRAIRIELAND BULLETIN

Volume 28, Number 3

March 2023

Chapter Website: <https://www.moaa.org/chapter/heartofillinois/>



## Joint Chapters Meeting Notice CIROA IL33 & HOIMOAA IL09



**Date:** 21 MAR 2023

**Location:** Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria, IL 61614  
*(Remote attendance available via Zoom, See Page 2)*

**Time:** 1800 Social Gathering  
1825 Order Dinner from Abbreviated Menu on table  
1830 Meeting Starts:  
OIC: MAJ David Zabinski, President HOIMOAA  
. Pledge of Allegiance (Stand, Face the Flag)  
. Invocation (Chaplain) or Moment of Silence  
. Announcements  
    JROTC Reports,  
. Break, following Dinner (10 Minutes)  
. Program: "Surviving Spouse & TRICARE", CAPT Bob Yonker, LTC Reginald Bernard & MAJ Jerry Jackson

Open Discussion  
2100 Target Conclusion

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED: (In person or Virtual)**  
**BY MONDAY, March 20**, contact MAJ Jackson at 309-676-1602 (Office), 309-657-3203 (mobile), or email: [jacksonfinancial@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksonfinancial@yahoo.com) with names and number of attendees. **HEADCOUNT IS IMPORTANT FOR STAFFING & TABLE SETTINGS.**

*Volunteers needed to fill Leadership vacancies on the Board of both Chapters.*



Seals shown here are to indicate membership source, but are unauthorized by the individual services

### Meeting & Program Schedule 2022-23

- 7 Mar 23 - Joint Board Meeting - MOAA
- 21 Mar 23 - Membership Meeting - MOAA "Survivor Benefits & Tricare Update"
- 4 Apr 23 - Joint Board Meeting - ROA
- 18 Apr 23 - Membership Meeting - ROA - TBA
- 2 May 23 - Joint Board Meeting - MOAA
- 16 May 23 - Membership Meeting - MOAA - "Tee it up for the Troops"

**SUMMER BREAK**  
(June, July, August)

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held virtually by Zoom at 1900 hrs on the first Tuesday of the month, and Membership Meetings in person, at Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria, IL 61614, on the third Tuesday of the month at 1800hrs. (Zoom available to those who can't attend in person.)

### Meeting Menu

**BBQ Baby Back Ribs: 1/2 Rack \$23/Full Rack \$30**  
**Rib Eye Steak: \$31**  
**Pork Chop: \$28**  
**Chicken - Fried \$19, Baked \$20**  
**Includes Salads & Sides**

20% Gratuity & Tax Added in Bill  
 Deserts Extra

### MAR Meeting Program Speakers:

CAPT Yonker, LTC Bernard and MAJ Jackson, utilizing background experience, as well personal experience, have taken on the tack of adapting a MOAA presentation for this meeting's presentation. All three are retired from their military services, as well as two are also retired from their civilian careers. With the program focus on TRICARE as well as Surviving Spousal Benefits, we believe this will be good program to attend.

### *Remote Zoom Meeting Instructions*

**To join the meeting online from home, click on link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85087399079?pwd=YlZhbGtER2lMVlB1aFlkVkFRnZjUT09>

**Meeting ID: 850 8739 9079**

**Passcode: 123123**

**For those without internet:**

**Audio only: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID 85087399079# Passcode: 123123#**

### TFL and Medicare Confusion Continues

As a follow-on to my message in the last edition of the PLB, I had a conversation with one of our members who has Medicare; a Medicare Advantage Plan, and Tricare-for-Life, and was confused as to why he had large copays. When he told me what he had, I told him to immediately drop the Medicare Advantage plan, which he did not need. When you have both the MA and TFL, the MA becomes secondary to Medicare, and TFL moves to the background. You have earned the TFL through your military service, and it leaves much less for you to pay out of pocket. Too few Agents are knowledgeable about Tricare! **JDJ (Repeated message)**

### (Editorial)

I wanted to take this opportunity to let our loyal members of both Central IL ROA & Heart of IL MOAA, we have been in contact with the national headquarters of both organizations to seek help in making contact with members of each organization, who are not currently members of our chapters. In both cases, efforts seem to be paying off.

Key contacts of both ROA and MOAA, are willing to assist us in mailing correspondence to those individuals to not only make them aware of our existence, but to extent our invitation to come meet with us, and maybe join us.

In the meantime, if you know any officers from any of the services, or non-coms from the reserve components, please extend an invitation to get acquainted. They can come to our Tuesday Evening meetings, or tune in via Zoom, if traveling to Peoria for an evening is difficult.

We not only need to grow our membership numbers, but also find those who will take the reins in the future. Some of us are growing old, and new ideas would be of great interest.

**Your help is much needed!!!**

**Jerry D. Jackson, MAJ USA Ret  
 Editor/Publisher, PrairieLand Bulletin**

**TAPS**  
**None to Report at this time!**

**Are you a Life Member? If not,  
WHY NOT??**

**Legislative Report**

This month, I wish to highlight 2 issues. First, Tricare Pharmacy which we have been talking about for the last several months and second, a new subject; the Guard and Reserve Retiree Bill.

We've found that those of you who did send a letter regarding Tricare Pharmacy changes received a form letter back that essentially said—yes, we support the VA efforts. This does happen because of the way letters are sorted. Everything military goes in one pile. The only suggestion I have is to send the same letter again, but put a subject line after the greeting - **I am writing about recent, and proposed pharmacy changes to Tricare.** Perhaps that will help separate it from the rest.

The second issue regards the benefits available to Guard and Reserve Members who did not serve on Active Duty. The new DD214 should clarify some of the benefits, but does not confer title 38 status. This means they are not eligible for the state veterans homes among other items. This is emerging legislation, not yet a bill, but is an injustice that should be rectified. Talk to your legislators about supporting this effort.

**LTC Reginald Bernard, USA Ret, Acting Legislative Chair**

(There are still 11,000 of the 15,000 independent pharmacies not signing on to the new contract, not to mention the big grocery pharmacies. Kroger has opted out and may take Albertson's, etc. with them!)



**SPECIAL NOTICE**

The following message was forwarded by MAJ Chuck Maroon to be shared with all.

“Please join us on March 29 for National Vietnam War Veterans Day. All day, we will be saying “Thank you and Welcome Home” to ALL Vietnam Veterans, including Vietnam Era Veterans, with a Free Sandwich.

Melissa Jessen  
Community Ambassador—Peoria  
Regional Community Ambassador—Peoria,  
Springfield, Davenport, East Madison and Rockford.  
Mission BBQ

[mjessen@mission-bbq.com](mailto:mjessen@mission-bbq.com)  
[www.mission-bbq.com](http://www.mission-bbq.com)

JDJ



**CIROA-HOIMOAA Committee Assignments:**



**ROTC/JROTC**  
LTC Reginald Bernard,  
Chair

LTC Kris Kline, ISU/  
IWU/Bradley U AROTC  
OIC

1SGT Julio Rodriguez,  
Pekin HS AJROTC

SFC Chris Oertwig, Sr  
Instructor  
Peoria Manual Academy  
(HS) AJROTC

1Sgt Shawn Martin,  
Richwoods CHS  
MCJROTC

(Monthly Reports  
Requested)

**NEWSLETTER:**  
MAJ Jerry Jackson

**ESGR:** LTC Dick  
Franzen

**Historian:** Vacant

**MEMBERSHIP:**  
CAPT Jim Lem-  
on

**PROGRAMS &  
Website:**  
CAPT Bob  
Yonker

**LEGISLATION:**  
LTC Reginald  
Bernard (Acting)

**PUBLICITY/  
Photos**  
Vacant

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CA 93955-6771


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**About The PrairieLand Bulletin**

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MAJ Jerry D. Jackson, USA Ret, Editor/Publisher.

ROA Charter from the Congress (SEC190102)  
 "the purposes of the corporation are to support the development and exercise of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security. ROA was for a long time the exclusive military organization created by Congress to advise Congress on military matters, with the more recent addition of MOAA., formerly known as TROA.

**Notice of Disclaimer**  
 Publication of articles written by individual members of ROA, CH33 and MOAA CH09 does not necessarily reflect the opinions and/or views of the chapters, or the national organizations.

Publication does not constitute an endorsement of views expressed.

**TRICARE**

**TRICARE East Region**  
 Health Net Federal Services (Includes Illinois)

Toll-free Telephone Number (800) 444-5445

Website: www.healthnetfederalservices.com


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**TRICARE For Life (TFL)**  
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Send claims to:


WPS/TRICARE For Life  
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Customer Service: 866-773-0404



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**Vice President:** VACANT  
**Secretary:** CAPT James Tomlin, USN Ret  
**Treasurer:** LTC Reginald Bernard, USA Ret  
**Immediate Past President:** LTC Richard Franzen, USA Ret



2022-2023 HOIMOOA  
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**Secretary:** CAPT James Tomlin, USN Ret  
**Treasurer:** LTC Reginald Bernard, USA Ret  
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 CAPT James Lemon, USN Ret