

# **MOAA Update for the Southwest OK Chapter**

**January 9, 2019**



**Southwest Oklahoma Chapter of the  
Military Officers Association of America**

# MOAA's Mission

**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.**

# Statistics

- **National Membership**
  - **350000 members in 409 chapters (50000 Ch Mbrs)**
  - **Nearly half are life members!**
  - **Member of the Military Coalition**
    - **33 National Organizations**
    - **Represent over 5.5 million veterans**
- **Local Membership**
  - **Member of the Oklahoma State Council**
  - **Chapter established in 2001**
  - **Finished 2018 with 154; 110 Members and 44 Associates**

# MOAA Top 10 Goals for 2019

- **Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care**
- **Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases**
- **Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector**
- **Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality of life benefits**
- **End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees**
- **Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans**
- **End financial penalties to survivors**

- **Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts**
- **Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies**
- **Ensure timely access to VA benefits**

# **Military Legislative Issues**

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# National Issues

- **MOAA is a tremendous Lobby Arm**
- **400,000+ communications to Congress**
- **Represents all ranks and services**
- **Several Achievements last 10 years:**
  - **Major Pay Raises for Currently Serving**
  - **End Strength Increases**
  - **Survivor Benefit Upgrades**
  - **Defeated Major TRICARE Fee Hikes**
  - **TRICARE For Life/TRICARE Senior Pharmacy**
  - **Major GI Bill Upgrades (Transferability)**
  - **Wounded Warrior Protections**

# Chapter Goals and Objectives 2018

- **Promote the aims, objectives and national legislative agenda of MOAA national legislative agenda**
- **Promote state legislation beneficial to active and retired members of the uniformed services**
- **Provide useful services for chapter members and their families while assisting other southwest Oklahoma organizations that provide support to active and retired military members, their families and veterans**



- **Maintain and recruit chapter membership**
- **Recognize and support deserving young men and women**
- **Raise the level of awareness about individual member, sponsor and chapter contributions and achievements**
- **Earn national recognition for the chapter**

# Local Issues

- **State MOAA Council represents us at many state meetings such as OK Vet Council**
- **State Tax**
  - **75% of Retired Pay Exempt from State Tax**
- **Veterans' Centers**
  - **Lawton's VA Center is the best in the state**
  - **Fighting for better pay/care of our veterans**

# Scholarships and Area Recognitions

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# National Scholarships

- **1700 military children (officer and enlisted families)**
- **\$9.3 million in interest-free loans and grants**
- **Chapter contributed over \$100,000 since 2008**
  - **Four \$25K nationally endowed scholarships**
  - **Priority for scholarships to be used by SWOK/OK/USA**

# Area Scholarships

- **\$1000 Area scholarships**
  - **4-5 Scholarships**
  - **Applications went out in DEC; Awarded in the spring**
- **Eligibility**
  - **Service Member Sponsor**
  - **JROTC/SROTC**
- **Committee selects the most qualified**
  - **Academic Achievements (ACT and GPA)**
  - **Student resume (Work, volunteer activities, sports)**
  - **Character Evaluations and student essay**

# Auxiliary and the Military Welcome Center

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# Auxiliary

- **Numbers**

- **Local Group, most active in the state**
- **Currently over 40 Members**
- **Also members/associates of the MOAA Chapter**
- **Surviving spouse representative on State Council**

- **Meetings**

- **Monthly Meetings, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**
- **Location is the Lawton Country Club**

# Military Welcome Center

- **History and Location**

- MOAA Auxiliary saw a need, teamed with ASYMCA
- Long process, dedicated 23 APR 2012
- Lounge and Kiosk located at airport
- MWC was expanded/renovated in late 2013.

- **Volunteers**

- **90 Active Volunteers** (Trained over 200)
- Three Shifts per Day
- Several Recognition Dinners each year



# MOAA is your Organization

- **National Membership**
  - **Three levels of membership (Basic free, Premium \$40/year, Life)**
  - **Join almost 350,000 members and make your voice heard**
  - **Recommend all officers join (at least) on-line now**
- **Local Membership**
  - **You are encouraged to recruit new members**
  - **Annual (\$20 or multi year discount)**

# Discussion