

MOAA Update for the Southwest OK Chapter

January 15, 2020



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

MOAA's Mission

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

With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community. We provide expert advice and guidance to our members.

SW Oklahoma Chapter Purpose

- **To promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America.**
- **To foster camaraderie among retired, active duty, reserve component and former officers of the uniformed services.**
- **To protect the rights and interests of all members and their families and survivors.**
- **To provide useful services for members, their dependents and survivors.**
- **To serve the Southwest Oklahoma communities and the nation.**

Statistics

➤ National Membership

- **350,000 members in 400 chapters in 50 states**
- **48% Life Members, 21% Premium and 31% Basic**
- **Founding Member of The Military Coalition**
 - **34 Organizations representing over 5.5 million veterans**

➤ Local Membership

- **Chapter established in 2001**
- **158 members as of 31 Dec 2019; 108 Chapter Members and 50 Associate Chapter Members**
- **Member of the Oklahoma MOAA State Council**

MOAA 2019 - Year in Review

- **Celebrating 90 Years, 23 Feb**
- **Storming the Hill, over 170 members on 10 April**
- **Community Outreach Grants, 22 Chapters, \$79K**
- **2019-2020 MOAA Scholars, 350 New Students**
- **MOAA a Top Lobbyist, 13th Year in a Row**
- **New MOAA Website Launched, 26 Sept**
- **Headquarters Renovation Completed, 1 Oct**

SWOK Chapter 2019 - Year in Review

- **Awarded Community Outreach Grant, \$3750**
- **Presented MOAA Medals, Certificates and Monetary Awards to Outstanding SROTC/JROTC Cadets**
- **5 Star Marvin A. Harris Communications Award**
- **5 Star Level of Excellence Chapter Award**
- **Chapter Meeting and Donation to Veteran's Center**
- **Individual Communications to National, State and Local Legislators on Key Legislative Issues**
- **Fort Sill National Cemetery and MWC Volunteers**
- **SW Oklahoma Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund**

Military Legislative Issues

January 15, 2020



**Southwest Oklahoma Chapter of the
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National Efforts

- **MOAA is a tremendous Lobby Arm**
- **400,000+ communications to Congress**
- **Represents all ranks and services**
- **Major Achievements over last 10 years:**
 - **Major Pay Raises for those 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**
 - **Elimination of the SBC/DIC Offset, “Widows Tax”**

MOAA'S Legislative Mission for 2020

- **Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military readiness and beneficiary access to top quality care.**
- **Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of non-pay quality of life benefits.**
- **Protect family support programs.**
- **End financial penalties for military survivors.**
- **End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.**
- **Achieve equity of benefits for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.**
- **Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits and resist proposals to erode VA and DoD delivered services.**
- **Support legislation, policies and programs to enable the services to recruit, retain and manage personnel.**

State Efforts

Oklahoma State MOAA Council Priorities:

- **Home Assessed Value Reductions**
 - **20 – 90 % VA disability and Surviving Spouses**
- **Oklahoma Military Retirement Exempt from State Tax**
 - **Increase deduction from 75% to 100%**
- **In State Tuition**
 - **Veterans**
 - **Dependents of Veterans**
 - **Members of the Uniformed Services of the US**
 - **Spouses**

Chapter Goals and Objectives 2020

- **Promote the aims, objectives and national legislative agenda of the Military Officers Association of America.**
- **Promote state legislation beneficial to active duty service members and retirees.**
- **Provide useful services for chapter members and their families.**
- **Energetically recruit new Chapter members.**
- **Sustain the SW OK Chapter of MOAA Area Scholarship and Leadership Award programs to recognize deserving young men and women.**

Chapter Goals and Objectives 2020

- **Promote individual member, sponsor and chapter contributions and activities.**
- **Earn national recognition for the Chapter.**
- **Build the financial resources of the Chapter.**
- **Update Chapter Bylaws to reflect current operations.**

Scholarships and Area Recognitions

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National MOAA Scholarships

- **MOAA Scholarship Fund was established in 1948 to provide benefits to children of military families.**
- **Through 2017, the Fund has provided over \$140 million in educational assistance to over 14,000 students.**
- **The majority of support is provided through interest free loans.**
- **SW OK 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**
 - **Scholarships 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**

MOAA Auxiliary and the Military Welcome Center

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Auxiliary

➤ Numbers

- **37 Members as of 31 December 2019**
- **Also Associate Members of the SW OK MOAA Chapter**

➤ Meetings

- **Meet the 4th Tuesday of each month**
- **Held at the Lawton Country Club**

Military Welcome Center

➤ History and Location

- MOAA Auxiliary saw a need, teamed with ASYMCA
- Dedicated 23 APR 2012
- Lounge and Kiosk located at Lawton Airport
- MWC was expanded/renovated in late 2013.
- MOAA Grant provided new lounge chairs in 2019

➤ Volunteers

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

MOAA is your Organization

➤ National Membership

- Three levels of membership (Basic – no cost, Premium - \$40/year, Life – age dependent)
- Join almost 350,000 members and make your voice heard
- Recommend all officers join; on-line now

➤ Local Membership

- You are encouraged to recruit new members
- Annual Fee only \$20 or multi year discount

A Healthy MOAA Chapter

- **Chapter Purpose!**
- **Legislative Advocacy Engagement!**
- **Community Involvement!**
- **Membership Growth!**

Discussion