

Mozark Moaagram
December 2014

President's Message

Karen and I wish you a **Very Merry Christmas** and the Best in the New Year!

We remember what wonderful year this has been and want to also remember that **“Jesus is the reason for the Season”**.

Hope to see all at the forthcoming Christmas Party at Ledgestone Country Club.

What a wonderful surprise speaker we had at the last meeting who lamented on “Ozark Gems”. A fun time! Thanks to Dave Porter who set it up.

Looking forward to a wonderful New Year of Health, Wealth and Happiness for all. Some of you will remember Gene Autry singing “Back in the Saddle again, out where a friend is a friend...”

Until we meet again in 2015 **“May the Lord Bless and Keep You.”**

Aryl Clason Commander US Navy Retired

Legislative Report by Major (retired) Don Bishop

Happy Holidays everyone! Said it that way to hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you have a very Merry Christmas coming up.

Major Don's Army, the charity my wife and I founded, continues to be busy. We still have three more families that are coming in for a visit this month. That will put us at 39 families one short of our record 40 we had last year that made lasting family memories. For a child battling cancer and seeing them light up having fun in the pictures I receive, as well as during our exit interview we do with each family causes, me to know what we are doing is important. I want to thank the many of you that have donated to our cause throughout the year as well as at each Christmas season. Thank you!

With the “force out” of Chuck Hagel at the Department of Defense, that may put that department in some internal interruptions which is something we don't need while we are in the current fight with the ISIS enemy and the middle east still on fire. But that

appears to have taken a back seat now with all the talk concerning race and police operations here at home. I have never worked there, but when a large group is interim it can't cause the greatest functionality. Or in this case maybe it does.

Not sure if you saw the National MOAA gram but once again (seems like every 5 years) they are talking about ways to make the retirement pay become more in line with that of civilian life. Normally it stays just at the "steady" level but this is an issue to please pay attention to. Any tweaking of this will have to take our already dangerously low levels of force strengths to a point it will take decades to fix assuming one could get the ship righted.

And have you been to the gas pump lately? I like it a whole bunch, these recent lower prices. This is real money kept in my billfold. However it has caused the 2015 COLA to start out in a negative .4% for the first month. It reminds me of the marching cadence "Give ya a hundred dollars, take back ninety-nine."

One of my last issues for this email is the old tired every year item you hear me harp about. That being the re-imburement rate to physicians. They think they are going to fix this once and for all, BUT if they don't as it stands now the doctors will take a 22% cut scheduled for April 2015. I won't go over the effects it will have on all of us, but safe to say it is not good.

New VA Choice Cards?? Anyone have one? I read the information twice and I am not sure how it affects us in Branson.

Now with all of that let me once again wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance \$1207.16

November Meeting

The November breakfast meeting at Golden Corral was deemed very successful according to the reports I heard. The speaker Greg Pyron, a radio KMOC and KRZK personality and Ozark Mountain Gems historian kept everyone entertained with his humorous and informative remarks. He is also the voice of downtown Branson's Adoration Parade.

Thanks to Susan and Dennis Oldacres for the good pictures. I have already sent them to all email addressees in our organization. If you did not receive them let me know and I will resend or you can see them on the mozarkmoaa.com web page that Keith has provided.

Christmas Party

We are looking forward to our December 13th Christmas Party at Ledgestone Country Club. Instead of a speaker there will be gift exchanges. Each one of us is to bring a \$10 to \$15. gift, as we have done before, men for men and ladies for ladies. Please place the gift on the appropriate table. Last year our meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and when gifts arrived at the next meeting some were inadvertently mixed up.

Special Gifts

If you are so inclined, an extra special gift is encouraged to give to Major Don's Army, a tax deductible donation which will help Major Don in his program to treat cancer afflicted children and their parents to a 3 day "vacation" on Tablerock Lake and Branson. You may mail it directly to Major Don's Army, 2228 Stone Ridge Center Road, Reeds Spring, MO 65737 or give to the treasurer, Alan Catron who will present to Major Don. Please visit his web site for complete information on the program at majordonsarmy.org

Dues

The chapter needs your dues now or ASAP. Dues are \$20. Annually
Auxiliary members are dues exempt.

Social Calendar

Be sure to go to ozarkmoaa.com where our web master and membership chairman Keith Oxby has most of the future events and schedules shown. Keith has done a terrific job on the web site in showing us much additional information of our organization. You most likely will find your picture in the side menu listed as Meeting Photographs.

Next Meeting (also shown in the web site under Mozark Social Calendar)

Place: Ledgestone Country Club
Date: Saturday December 13, 2014
Time: Social 11:00
Meal: 12:00
Cost: \$17.
Program: Christmas Gift exchanges
Hosts: Porters and Clasons

We hope to see you there!!!!

