

**Mozark Moaagram**  
**February 2015**

**MOAAGRAM Presidents Message**

I want to thank you for the good turnout at the January meeting. Karen and I are sorry that we could not attend as we were recovering from an unknown sickness and did not want to possibly spread it to others. I thank Dave Porter for filling in for me. We are back in the pink now and looking forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

We are now well past the Winter Solstice and I trust that you are now noticing a slight increase in length of daylight time and that the weather should be improving in warmth signaling the approach of Spring.

LOOKING AHEAD: At last week's board meeting I appointed the Nominating Committee to commence working on next year's slate of Chapter Officers. The committee members are Frank Baker, Gary Scharberg and Winsor Morrison. That slate will be voted upon at the April Chapter meeting. I encourage you to pass your thoughts on this subject to that committee. I am sure they would like to hear your thoughts. I thank Frank, Gary and Winsor for accepting this task.

Also at the last board meeting a proposal was made to change the Chapter Bylaws to reflect a different lineup of responsible officers. Winsor will explain in more detail later in this MOAAGRAM what this proposal will mean to us. A Bylaw change will require approval of the chapter members.

We have now had a few months of receiving these MOAAGRAMs electronically and the financial savings associated. I (or any board member) would like to hear feedback from you on this subject.

Thank you for your support of the military and our chapter.

Looking forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Aryl Clason CDR USN (RET)

President MOZARK MOAA

Legislative Update by Major (retired) Don Bishop

Hope everyone is staying warm during the few cold days we have had so far this winter.

This month I am only going to dwell on a couple items. We want to think our Government leaders both civilian and military have our interest in mind when they make the “big” decisions. We saw how the Sequester went for us. That’s right let us make the big cuts we can find on the backs of the military. Even though we have been fighting two wars they still are talking about large cuts to the ground forces. Please. Maybe there will be relief from this law, but I am not holding my breath.

If that wasn’t enough now we have a commission recommending more “new” reforms for the military. This comes in the form of the “Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.” I first read what they were proposing when it first hit the internet. I have since read what was in the MOAA update they send to us. I just looked out my window and didn’t see any pigs flying. And I hope very little if any of their recommendations see the light of day. We already have a retention problem, divorce rates are sky high of those currently serving and if I remember right very sadly 23 soldiers who have been affect by this incredible high tempo are committing suicide each DAY. So bad to the point I just learned of a group that has formed a non-profit to try and fill a gap the government isn’t doing for at high risk soldiers forgotten about by the system.

Does this commission think no one reads what they put out? Granted probably less than 1% of our society cares or even knows what they are talking about in the first place. Again if any of these thoughts reach the “law” point the low overall real readiness of our country we have now, it might break our professional forces it would take decades to fix. It is OUR duty to voice our opinion LOUD to our elected leaders as the active duty force can’t. We are not a 401K kind of “job” while in the military nor will civilian jobs ever have the same level of responsibilities and duties.

There are a few more things going on, but we really need to marshal our forces (emails) and let our elected leaders know what we think of the “commission reforms” as soon as directed if not before.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

**Bank Balance \$1402.03**

#### **Dues**

**There are only a few members who have not yet paid their 2015 dues of \$20. Please do so ASAP so the treasurer can meet the future obligations. Dues may be sent to Alan Catron, Treasurer, 710 Indian Valley Road, Branson West, MO 65737**

## By-Laws Change

To: All MOZARKMOAA members

The MOAA Bd. met on Jan. 28, and is considering a By-Law change, that they will vote on at their next Bd. meeting in Feb. They would like your input, if you have any.

Here is the proposed by-law change: Article IX. Officers: change: Deleting the office of 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice-Pres., Article VII. ANNEX B. Change: Replace 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice-Pres. with 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice-Pres.

Reasons for these proposed changes: It has become increasingly more difficult to find people to serve on the MOAA Board, and also to serve as one of the President's, as our numbers are declining. It is possible for one Vice-Pres. to fulfill the tasks of two. By combining the two Vice-Presidents into one position, we have one less office to fill. If you have any input on these By-Law changes, call or e-mail: Aryl Clason, Winsor Morrison, or Dave Porter

Aryl and Winsor: if you want to change this, that's fine

I tried to make it as clear as possible.

Dave Porter

## True American Award

Frank Baker reported that the Radisson Hotel where our True American Award display board is kept recently changed owners. Our concern was that they might not want to display the many veteran pictures and memorabilia, including our TAH board.

Dave Porter visited Sara Hord, Sales Manager and she assured him that there probably would not be a change because the new owners are from Branson and are veteran supporters.

## Illnesses

Our long time member and Treasurer for many years, Lou Doden, is suffering from severe COPD. He has been on oxygen now for several months. I talked to Lou a few days ago. He is moving to assisted living at Culpepper Place in Branson. His wife Mary is suffering from Alzheimer disease.

Doctor John Huffman has been ill as was reported a month ago. I was not able to reach his home to see if he was back to work yet.

## Taps

Commander James Walker passed away February 6, 2015. His funeral will be held with full military honors February 11, 2015 at Ozark Mountain Assembly of God, 55 Trail Ridge, Kimberling City, MO 65686. Mozark MOAA is sending flowers, as has been our custom.

(Check the MOZARKMOAA website for obituaries)

### Future Meetings

Date: February 21, 2015

Time: Social 1100 hrs

Lunch: Buffet at 1200 hrs

Cost: \$20.

Speaker: Garrett Anderson, Economic Development Director for Branson

Place: Herrold Room, Keeter Center C. of O.

March meeting will be held at Stormy Point March 21<sup>st</sup> at \$15.