

**Mozark Moaagram**  
**March 2014**

**President's Message**

On Saturday, 1 March, I attended the Council of Chapters meeting at Fort Leonard Wood. Colonel Barry Wright of MOAA was present and addressed the group. His first remarks concerned the DoD budget and the drastic reductions that are anticipated. By the time you read this, the recommendations will be known and being debated in the Congress. Colonel Wright's message was that we play a vital role in the process. He called it "bridging the gap". Bridging the knowledge gap between those of us who understand the military, and our civilian friends and neighbors. Tell them for example that an E-5 will lose an estimated \$4,300 per year through higher commissary prices, the pay raise cap and higher TRICARE costs. He also told us to continue sending the MOAA message to our Congressmen and women.

The second part of his presentation concerned membership and membership recruiting. I intend to share this information at the next board Meeting.

Garry A. Scharberg, COL. (Ret.)

President, MOZARK MOAA

**Legislative Report- Major (Ret.) Don Bishop**

Winter sure doesn't want to give it up this year. Hopefully all of the snow and cold will be a distant memory.

Seems like the more I report about Congress and the amazing things they come up with, I just get amazed again, twice over.

Has peace broken out around the world and no one has told me? Sure seems like on the news there are many countries imploding, and Putin doing actions that makes one wonder if we are going back to the USSR days. Over the last ten years our country has been at two wars our self. Wars that have cost us large sums of money/blood treasure as a nation and has also caused the Army to do missions not in our old duty descriptions in the Combat Arms. SO what does Congress do and propose to help the Army reset? First they pass the 1% reduction in COLA, which they have since had to retract in a new law, (thanks to all of you who have contacted your elected leaders), but NOW Department of Defense Secretary Haigle wants to CUT the Army down to FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND active duty soldiers. That is fewer than before WWII. When Saddam Hussein went south into Kuwait in 1990 we were

beginning a Reduction in Force (RIF), so we called a time out, got ready, and did our jobs by aligning THREE CORPS of soldiers in the Desert. Thankfully that was a quick war. BUT it didn't cause the Congress to then take our Army from its 1.6 MILLION active duty end strength down to around 490 thousand. That was a painful process but we got there with no muscle or fat left on the bone. (At least that is my opinion and also others that wear multiple stars). SO to reduce it further? Hello? Contact your elected leaders once more please, to stop this proposal. We will never make a dent in our National Debt with any cuts to our military. Even our mainstream media doesn't understand this one.

Next, if you haven't now transitioned your maintenance prescriptions to Express Scripts you are out of time. Once you have used your two "mulligan's" you will be charged 100% retail at your local pharmacy. I have learned it doesn't apply to ALL maintenance drugs, so be sure to check to make sure. Also regarding health care, be on the lookout for them to once again propose an increase in our Co-Pays, deductibles, and perhaps create and establish an "enrollment fee" for TRICARE.

Whatever savings was left in our Commissary they are looking at getting rid of the rest of it. Granted this doesn't affect a lot of us who live in the Branson area, but every now and then we make it to one.

All of these actions sadly eventually have a direct effect on combat readiness. Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen will react with their feet and either not remain in the service or recruiters will start missing their quotas of young people to join. And then we pay for it in blood the next conflict our elected leaders decide on.

Besides the upcoming elections, where we can send them ALL home, writing emails, calling, letters, etc. is the only way to keep them in check. As retirees, it is our DUTY to be the voice of not only ourselves but for the active duty service members who by regulation must stay silent, as we once knew.

Major Don's Army again says thank you to MOZARK MOAA and wants to let you know it looks like this is going to be another busy year for Major Don's Army!

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Bank Balance---\$1168.28**  
**2014 Dues now requested (\$20.)**

## **Directions to Stormy Point Club House, our March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting place-**

From the intersection of Country Blvd. Highway 76 and Sheppard of the Hills Expressway (that is where IHOP and RFDTV theater is located), go west on HWY 376 for approximately 1.5 miles to the stoplight on Highway 265. Turn right and go about 100 yards to Stormy Point Road and turn left. Go approximately ¾ mile and turn right into Stormy Point Village (a gated community). The Gate Sentry will direct you to the Clubhouse which is easily seen.

Further meeting details on FUTURE EVENTS page.

## **Award Received, as published in the Branson Daily News**

Our member, Col. Paul Vicalvi received the Centurion of the Year award at the Chaplains' Commission Centurion Banquet held in Alexandria, Virginia January 14, 2014. This award recognizes exceptional commitment to the ministry of Evangelical military chaplains. Colonel (ret.) Vicalvi now teaches at School of the Ozarks. He will participate at the roundtable discussion of Chaplains of the Military at our next meeting.

## **Nominating Committee**

At the last Board Meeting President Scharberg appointed Past President Dave Porter to chair a nominating committee to select candidates for next year's officers. Elections are held in April and installation of officers is in May. If you have suggestions for candidates, please notify Dave's committee.

## **Future Meetings**

Place: Stormy Point Clubhouse (see directions)

Date: Saturday March 15, 2014 (noon)

Time: Social 11:00

Lunch Buffet 12:00

Cost: \$15.

Program: Military Chaplains Roundtable by Col. Buff Ness, Col. Paul Vicalvi and LTC. Ronald Boldman.

Hosts: Aryl & Karen Clason