

**Mozark Moaagram
March 2015**

March Presidents Message

I imagine you are as tired of this weather as I am. It was unfortunate that the February chapter meeting was canceled due to weather. As it turned out, it was a good decision and now Karen and I are very much looking forward to our March meeting and getting to see all of you. The weather forecaster is hinting at a much improved outlook. He or she better be as the calendar is saying that Spring is upon us and that we will soon be moving the clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time.

We were saddened to recently learn of the passing of Lou Doden. He was a special and longtime member who was a strong supporter of our MOZARK MOAA Chapter by his many contributions. He will definitely be missed.

At the March Chapter meeting we will be voting on the proposed change to the Bylaws to affect a different lineup of the responsible chapter officers that was described in the last MOAAGRAM. I expect that we will then vote on the new officers for the upcoming year at the April chapter meeting with their installation to be at the May meeting.

In my last message, I asked that you provide comments about the MOAAGRAMS being sent out electronically. Having heard none, I can only assume that you are happy and satisfied with this change. If so, please take the time to thank Winsor Morrison for his efforts and willingness to put them together. Thanks Winsor.

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

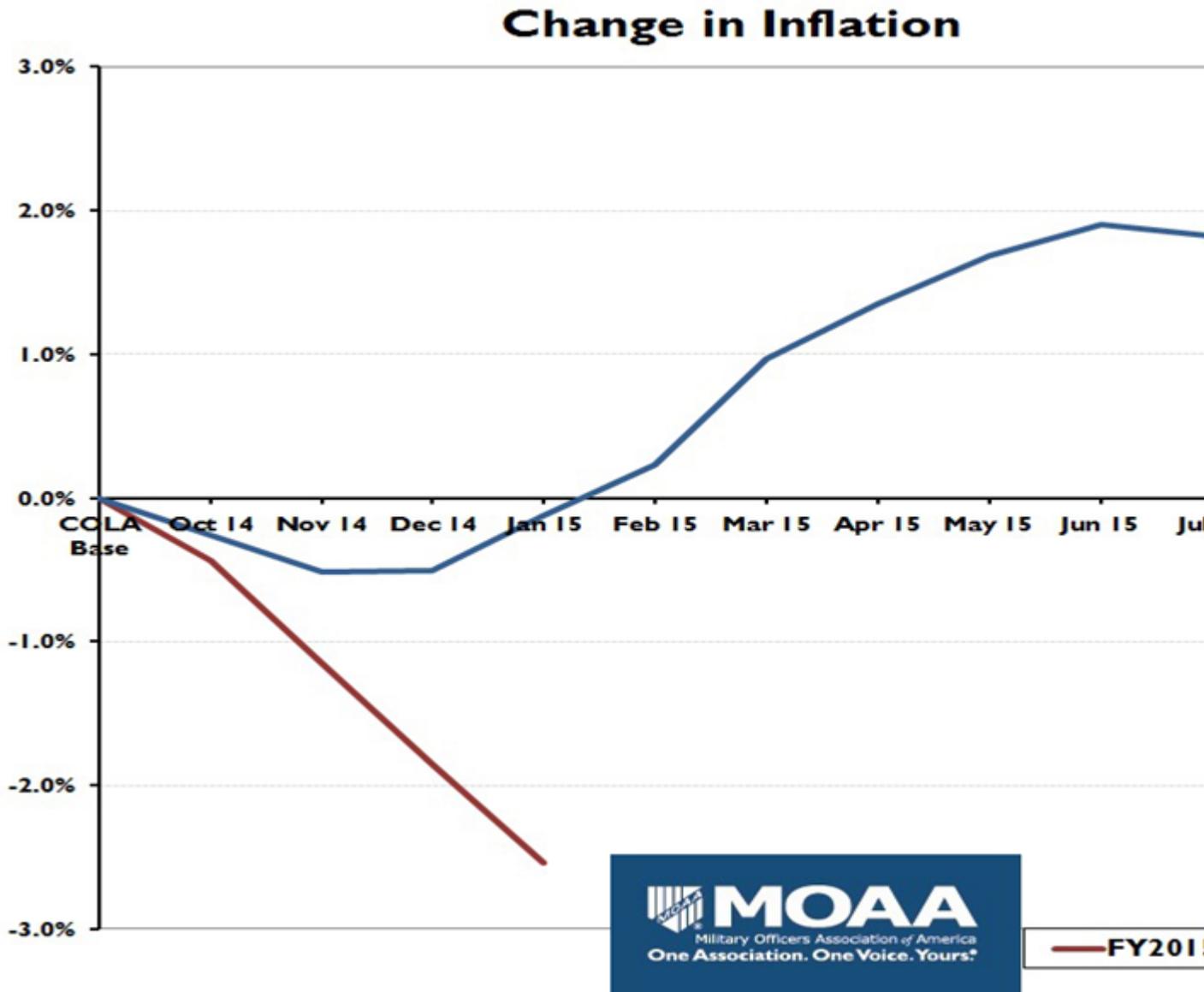
Aryl Clason

President MOZARK MOAA

Legislative Report

Legislative Report by Major (retired) Don Bishop

Let us start with the most important item I watch anyway. Due to the lag in the system, our COLA is behind the recent re-spike in the price we are paying for the “summer blends” at the pump. But thought it was worth inserting the chart sent out in the recent National MOAA gram. Just me guessing, but the thought of a “raise” next year in our retired pay is looking pretty grim in my book. We are at a -2.5% from the FY2014 baseline.



In the past we have watched all of the “fat” carved off the “bone” regarding the benefits we had as a service member in any status i.e.: Active Duty, Retiree, Veteran. Based on this latest commission that is for some reason gaining traction we now see potential shaving off of the bone. The first action they are calling on us to contact our elected leaders is the subject of overall TRICARE benefits. Bottom line is to tell them to leave the TRICARE system in place, fix it, and don’t try to shove us off into other Federal type programs. One doesn’t have to be a Rhoades Scholar to quickly realize they are really pushing us into a one payer system. Perhaps you think this would good; but if you think the quality of medical care would be the same, I am willing to debate that until the cows come home. So yes it is all we can do at this point, but if enough of us contact our Senators and other key leaders and TELL them to leave TRICARE alone they might hesitate not to make wholesale changes at this time. And it is time that we need for now.

I haven’t gone back to see how many months the next topic I have shared with you, which is my “favorite” word of Sequestration but I bet it is the most of any. It has reared its ugly head again as it is back in the budget cycle for 2016. The requirements that legislation put on the backs of all service members cuts to the core of our National Security. Yes I said our ability to secure this nation. Seems like on TV the pundits keep thinking we can do what we could 20 years ago as a force, guess what we can’t. We no longer have the trained soldiers to be able to do all things that the elected leaders say they want. When we lose trained Mid-level NCOS and above we as a nation just can’t go and contract some when we need them in the future. To lift a quote from the recent message shared with us at the national level -“The service chiefs and their enlisted advisors continue to sound the alarm on the serious threats that sequestration poses to national security, readiness, and retention,” said MOAA deputy director of government relations Karen Golden. “It’s time for Congress to listen and take action.” At this point I am not even sure what you should tell Congress, but just look at the rest of what the “bone” is made of and go from there. Previous “Calls to Action” are as good of a guide as any to get started. To be completely honest with you, I sometimes at this point feel I am in the rowboat with a large leak and am starting to take on too much water to make much of a difference. But I guess we have to try, for not us, then who?

But to end this update on two positive notes, the last of the snow events I think is over, and we can now enjoy the beautiful warmer weather the Ozarks typically has. And secondly THANK YOU very much for those of you that have supported Major Don’s Army, our personal mission of helping kids with cancer and their families enjoy a memorable weekend of fun, vacationing in the Branson/Table Rock area.

Treasurers Report
Bank Balance \$1402.03

Proposed By-Laws Change

HERE IS THE PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE: ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS: DELETING THE OFFICE OF 2ND. VICE-PRESIDENT, ARTICLE VII. ANNEX B. CHANGE: REPLACE 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT WITH 1ST. VICE-PRESIDENT.

REASON FOR THIS PROPOSED CHANGE: IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND PEOPLE TO SERVE AS OFFICERS AND ON THE MOAA BOARD, AND EVENTUALLY TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT. OUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS ARE DECLINING. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE FOR ONE VICE-PRESIDENT TO FULFILL THE DUTIES OF BOTH OFFICES. BY COMBINING THE TWO VICE-PRESIDENTS INTO ONE POSITION, WE WOULD HAVE ONE LESS OFFICE TO FILL.

THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE DISCUSSED AND VOTED UPON AT OUR MARCH GENERAL MEETING MARCH 21, 2015.

TAPS

**LTC (RETIRED) LARRY HERTEL OF FORSYTH PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 13, 2015.
CDR. (RETIRED) JAMES WALKER PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 6, 2015 IN
KIMBERLING CITY.
CDR. (RETIRED) LOUIS DODEN DIED AT COX BRANSON HOSPITAL FEBRUARY 27,
2015.**

ELISE BISHOP'S FATHER DIED JANUARY 7, 2015.

**LOU DODEN'S FUNERAL WAS WELL ATTENDED AND WELL REPRESENTED BY
MOAA MEMBERS AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOLLISTER ON FRIDAY
MARCH 6, 2015. HIS INTERMENT WILL BE AT MISSOURI VETERANS CEMETERY
APRIL 20, 2015. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTH COMING LATER.**

GENERAL MEETING

**DATE: SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2015
TIME: 1100 SOCIAL
BUFFET LUNCH: 1200 NOON
COST: \$15.**

PLACE: STORMY POINT AT THE *PIRATES HARBOR CLUB*

HOUSE

**(DIRECTIONS- FIRST STREET WEST OF HIGHWAYS 265 AND 376 INTERSECTION.
THE STREET NAME IS STORMY POINT DRIVE. ENTER AND GO TO THE GUARD
GATE AND ASK FOR DIRECTIONS TO PIRATES HARBOR CLUB HOUSE)**

**SPEAKER: WARREN ROSE, MISSOURI CONSERVATION COMMISSION OVER VARIETY
TOPICS.**

**HOSTS: DENNIS & SUSAN OLDACRES AND
BARBARA PORTER**

***NEXT MEETING (APRIL) WILL BE APRIL 18, 2015 AT STORMY POINT -PIRATES
HARBOR CLUB, AND COL GARRY SCHARBERG WILL SPEAK TO US ABOUT HIS
EXPERIENCES IN SAUDI ARABIA.
OFFICER ELECTIONS WILL ALSO BE CONDUCTED AT THAT TIME.***

