

## MOAAGRAM May 2014

### President's Message

Kathleen and I hope that you have all been enjoying the weather and our beautiful Ozarks. This is certainly the best time of the year. Especially when it follows a winter such as we just experienced.

Many thanks are due to David Porter for his excellent performance as head of the Nominating Committee. You will recall that he announced the nominees at our last luncheon and hearing no nominations from the floor, Dave called for a vote which accepted the slate of officers unanimously. We also must acknowledge that Dave volunteered to be the First Vice President in the coming year. You will have an opportunity to welcome the new officers after they are sworn-in at the next meeting.

The next quarterly meeting of the Council of Chapters will take place at the Keeter Center on Saturday, May 7. It will begin at 1000 hours and will be in the Clark Room which is downstairs. All members are welcome to attend.

The American Legion Post in Kimberling City provides the service of appropriately retiring worn and dirty American Flags. There is a drop box at the building entrance for this purpose.

#### Legislative Update by Major (retired) Don Bishop

I would like to apologize to everyone for my hit and miss reports this year. I have been battling a medical issue which was just recently diagnosed as pericardial effusion (fluid around the heart). Surgery is planned to relieve the problem by taking the pressure off. Hopefully I will feel much better then.

Winter is finally gone, but now wondering if we are going to be short changed with spring considering the recent 90 degree days. The heat in D.C. seems to continue to rise. They are determined to find somewhere they can short change the military in some budget savings. The House Armed Services Committee for personnel has at least rejected the administration's most recent reductions of personnel. I have seen 440K active duty numbers proposed for the Army which is below the beginning of WWII levels of active duty soldiers. I have also heard through other Sources that lower numbers are being considered. In my opinion, we need to keep a strong standing army. Just makes me shake my head that leaders can even discuss these cuts with an honest heart. I know things change, but I also know things have stayed the same over the decades in our country.

Again, in case it has been too long since I said the word "Sequester", it is still part of the driving force behind discussions of end strengths or the next piece of the bone they will come after, e.g. some more retiree benefits. And in our case I am convinced they will

get the TRICARE for life fees established and somehow get it tied to another government health care plan.

Short update this month as not too much is going on overall. But keep your eyes and ears eastward, as it is the retiree community that has even remotely kept them honest with our letters, email, and phone campaigns, when Congress tries to sneak one past us.

And finally thank you for the prayers regarding my personal health, and thank you VERY MUCH for your support of Major Don's Army. We are now getting into our busy season of helping out these kids with cancer and their families enjoy a vacation in the Ozarks!!

(from Military Officer-April 2014 issue)

## The Health Care Law and Your Military Coverage

### Military Coverage

It is important to know what the health care law means for you and your family. If you have TRICARE or Veterans Affairs benefits, the health care law does not change the health coverage you have.

### Did you know?

The health care law doesn't change TRICARE or Veteran's Affairs benefits.

TRICARE is health coverage for members of the military and their families. TRICARE plan options vary depending on the military member's duty status (active-duty, retired or reserve) and location.

Since the health care law was passed, TRICARE created a new coverage option for adult children up to age 26. TRICARE Young Adult is an option for unmarried adult children who are over 21 to get health coverage. If you are considering this option, you should review all the health plan choices available before deciding if TRICARE Young Adult is the right option. You can visit TRICARE Young Adult at [www.TRICARE.mil/welcome/plans/tya](http://www.TRICARE.mil/welcome/plans/tya) to learn more.

- Visit TRICARE at [www.TRICARE.mil](http://www.TRICARE.mil) or find the phone number in your region at [www.TRICARE.mil/ContactUs/CallUs.aspx](http://www.TRICARE.mil/ContactUs/CallUs.aspx).
- Visit Veterans Affairs at [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov) or call 1-800-827-1000.

- Be sure to check with your military coverage to see how your individual plan works with your military benefits.
- Understand the health care law at AARP's Health Law Facts, available at [www.HealthLawFacts.org](http://www.HealthLawFacts.org).
- As someone who is 65 years of age or older, you are eligible for Medicare. Medicare is the health insurance program for people who are 65 or over and for some younger people with disabilities. Visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) to learn more.
- Injury: John Rousselet's big toe got in the way of his lawn mower. Our sympathy too him as he recovers.
- Treasurer's Report Bank Balance—\$-----
- Installation of Officers

The following elected officers will be installed at the May meeting:

President - CDR. Aryl Clason

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - 1stLT David Porter

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - LTC John Rousselet

Secretary - COL. Paul Vicalv

Treasurer - LTC Alan Catron

Member-at-Large - CAPT Paul Goodspeed

#### Future Meeting Places

#### **Saturday, May 17, 2014**

Time: Social 11:00, Lunch 12:00

Cost: \$15.

Place: Stormy Point Reception Center

Program: "Jesus Was Homeless" by Ashley Lauer ([www.jesuswashomeless.org](http://www.jesuswashomeless.org))

**Saturday, June 21, 2014** 12:00 Annual Picnic at Table Rock State Park Pavilion

Directions to Stormy Point Village: At the southwestern intersection of Hwy 376 and Hwy 265, go west toward Branson West only a 100 yards or so and turn left into the driveway (street) that goes into Stormy Point Village.