

Mozark MOAA

November 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Holiday Season is upon us with Thanksgiving coming soon and Christmas is just around the corner. As we look forward to that special day, it is entirely appropriate that our members support Major Don's Army as our gift to the community. Details will be forthcoming.

The meal and program at our last meeting were outstanding. Thanks to all that helped make the evening a success.

Your Board of Directors has been looking for someone to serve as the Chapter Historian. It appeared that the general consensus was that a historian was a good idea, but no one was volunteering for the job. During the discussion at the last board meeting, it became apparent that one of our members has been informally performing most of the duties envisioned for a historian. That individual is Winsor Morrison, who has as you know, has been faithfully serving the Chapter in many ways for a long time. He graciously agreed to expand his historical activities and we now have a Chapter Historian. Thank you, Winsor. We appreciate all of your contributions.

Garry A Scharberg, COL.,USA, (ret.)
President, Mozark MOAA

Legislative Update by Major (retired) Don Bishop

First I would like to apologize for not getting in a report last month. My foot was in enough pain that I wasn't able to get most anything done that took more than about a minute of concentration. I did spend one day at the hospital at the cath lab. They ran up and down my main arteries in the leg and fixed two places that were pretty closed off. My foot wounds the medical folks all say are getting better. The lymphedema in my leg from the knee down which occurs within the hour after no longer elevating said foot we are still chasing down. A BIG THANK YOU to all of you that included me in your thoughts and prayers. Also have heard Major Don's Army was selected for the Christmas gift from the group which we are very thankful for as well.

Now to the fun job of trying to keep track on what our elected “leaders” have been up to. First, it is now final in case you haven’t heard; our cost of living increase for next year (you will first see in the January 1st paychecks) is 1.5%. Probably around 50 extra bucks in your pocket. What most folks don’t know is what the law is that is used in determining that figure. The CPI which is used does NOT include the price of food or fuel. I know my grocery bill seems a bit more every week. Maybe it is my shopper.....okay, maybe not.

Thankfully they reached a decision to open back up the government. Perhaps it would have been that over 60 million Americans affected by not getting paid that finally grabbed their attention. Many comments I have heard by many that they ALL acted like a bunch of little kids. The poll taken of “Not re-electing any incumbent” is at an all time high.

Not only has National MOAA remained one of the top lobbyist groups in D.C., but are currently lobbying Congress to fund ALL of the VA operations a year ahead. This would be important in case Congress decides to shut down the government again. Those that receive VA disability along with everything else would not be affected. I know that would be very important for me, not to mention that no claims are being processed as the law is currently in effect.

Another bit of “good” news is the rates for Medicare remain flat as many of our members are in that age bracket along with myself. I had to join Medicare and Tricare for Life when I became disabled after two years with Social Security. I guess that applies to me also. However when I read “Please note that because TRICARE For Life (TFL) acts as a supplemental insurance to Medicare, the deductibles for Parts A and B are paid by TFL.” I have always wondered. As I know before I fell into this group I would reach a deductible somewhere to where once met I no longer had to pay the pharmacy copays. Since then I pay those co-pays through the entire year regardless. But then again I get that disability so it is kind of like the Army “jodee” that says “give ya a hundred dollars, take back ninety-nine.”

Not too much important news shared but I see I am getting a bit long so better quit for now. Hope my foot gets better so I can be at our next meeting. Been awhile since I have worn a shoe 😊 Thanks again for the prayers!!

Treasurer Report
Bank Balance--\$934.26

Chapter News

“Dear Fellow MOAA Members,

We have moved to Springfield. I have joined the Springfield Chapter of MOAA. Anne and I have enjoyed our affiliation with you over the last 17 years. Thank you for the great job you are doing. Good Luck. Sincerely, Larry Henry, LTC, US Army (ret.)

We are sorry to lose Larry and Anne but wish them the best in their new home.

Veterans Week is upon us (As I write this) and may be history by the time this Moaagram arrives in your mail box. I look forward to the GALA again this year. I wish I could wear my uniform but it has shrunk since I left the Service. Mary Shantag and the P.O.W.-M.I.A. do a great job in putting it on each year. The original GALA was begun by our Mozark MOAA Chapter members nearly 17 years ago while Maj. Steve Presley was president. The Mozark chapter ran it successfully for about 4 years but it became more than the chapter volunteers could manage. Mary Shantag and her late husband Chuck, who were local directors of the P.O.W.-M.I.A. Network took it over and have done a remarkable job in keeping it going. It is one of the highlights of Veterans Week in Branson.

At our last meeting Brenda Boldman, RN gave a very informative and interesting talk on her experiences with Hospice care. It is a topic that needs more exposure so that we all can be better informed on availability of service and care for the terminally ill.

Future Events

Date: November 16 (Saturday) 2013

Place: Keeter Center, College of the Ozarks

Time: Social 11:00 Lunch: 12:00

Program: “Purple Heart”

Hosts: Dave Porter/Aryl Clason

Next Meeting—December 14, 2013 at Ledgestone –Christmas Party

