

Mozark Moaagram
February 2014

President's Message

Thank you for the great turnout for the January luncheon. It made a good start for 2014. As I looked at the plans for future luncheons, I became convinced that we will enjoy the programs as well as the fellowship.

The board meeting on January 27 also had good attendance despite the cold weather and a lot was accomplished. It was clear however, that there are a number of organizational tasks that need to be reviewed in the coming months. Some of these are relatively small tasks, but are the sort of thing that adds to the smooth functioning of the organization. At the moment, there are several long-time members who have faithfully executed these tasks over several years and now would appreciate relief. Therefore, I am seeking volunteers. If you have questions, please see me at the upcoming luncheon.

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

Garry A. Scharberg, COL. (Ret.)

President, MOZARK MOAA

Legislative Update by Maj. (retired) Don Bishop

First I would like to thank everyone once again for your kind donations to Major Don's Army as part of the Christmas charity program. We hosted 40 families last year and based on the number of applications that have been processed so far this year; I think it is going to be another busy year for the Foundation.

When I attended the meeting last month I realized something else. For our group, the issue of Congress voting to take the 1% out of future COLAs that the military retiree receives until the age of 62 doesn't really apply to very many in our group. However I still ask you to keep the pressure on our elected leaders as I think this is our line in the sand. IF they can do this action, what will be the next one they can do to take away the benefits we were promised when we signed up?

The next ACTION in case you have missed it is the prescription change for all of us Tricare for Life folks. They are saying that starting this month, ALL maintenance drugs MUST be filled through the mail-order pharmacy. Sounds like we have two times we can fill at our local pharmacy but after that we will be held to 100% of the COST. This would be some serious dollars out of pocket for many of the medications

that our group might take. IF you have never used the mail-order program, from my own experience it is not easy and a smooth operation. But I guess the 100% new requirement will make us all figure it out. Plan early is all I have to say.

In the last update from National MOAA they also mentioned that this spring there will be a registered nurse available to us on a toll free line 24 hours a day. This could perhaps be a good service, but will wait and see how efficient this service becomes.

Well I hope by the time this is printed and mailed out, this winter weather will be starting to fade in our memories and warm weather will once again be the norm in the Ozarks.

Have a great February!

Winsor's Remarks

I have used Express Scripts thru TriCare for several years and have been very pleased with the service. You can go online once your doctor has provided them a prescription; they will refill it automatically when needed. If your prescription is used up or refills needed they will contact your doctor for a new prescription if you ask them to. Maintenance drugs, such as for hypertension, heart medications, etc. are generic and for a 3 month supply at no cost to you. They are mailed out of Phoenix, AZ for our area and usually arriving before your last pill is taken.

For acute illnesses they would not be quick enough and local participating pharmacies would be a better choice. Their address, phone number and email address follows:

Express Scripts, P.O .Box 60903, Phoenix, AZ 85082-0903 phone 1-866-274-0891

www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE

Dues:

Please remember to pay your dues for 2014. Dues are now \$20. Annually.

Interesting and informative web sites are:

www.mozarkmoaa.com by our member and webmaster KEITH OXBY (see photos and notes)

www.majordonsarmy.org (a full presentation of Major Don's organization)

NATIONAL MOAA

If you are not a member of National MOAA you are missing a great monthly magazine. It has most of the military benefits and congressional actions and calendar information. You can reach them on line at www.moaa.org Several bills before congress but not yet passed are described in this month's issue. Most affect active members but a few affect retired members also.

Treasurer's Report

MOAA Operations \$1168.26

Bank Balance \$1168.26

TAX TIME

Tax time is upon us again. National MOAA offers tax tips for members at www.moaa.org/financialcenter

1st Vice President Cdr. Aryl Clason gave a very interesting presentation at the January meeting regarding his Cold War Submarine Operations. We had approximately 49 attendees in the Silver Dollar Center room at Keeter Center. Thanks, Aryl! He has also arranged for our next meeting in March to be at a new venue (for us) at Stormy Point center. It will be at a reduced rate to what we have been paying and comparable food and service.

Pictures

Future Events

Date: February 15, 2014 Saturday (noon)
Time: 11:00 Social
12:00 Lunch
Place: Ledgestone Country Club
Program: Ozark Technical College-----Robert Griffin, administrator
Cost: \$20.
Hosts: LT. USCG (ret.) Dennis and Susan Oldacres