

**Mozark Moaagram
November 2014**

President's Message

WOW! As I write this, things are really cranking up here in Branson for Veterans Day. Yesterday Karen and I attended a good show at Baldknobbers Theater titled "Vets for Vet Celebration" which included Host Grammy award winner Billy Dean singing "Wave On. Old Glory Wave On" and other Patriotic Songs. He received a standing ovation from the very large group of Veterans in attendance.

I am looking forward to Vets Day events starting with a Veteran recognition event at the Branson Junior High School (Mozark MOAA Chapter has been invited to and will participate) followed by the annual Parade in Downtown.

Hope to see you at the Golden Corral Brunch this month. Dave Porter has lined up a surprise speaker.

Wishing you a **Happy Thanksgiving.**

Aryl Clason Commander, US Navy Retired

President, Mozark MOAA

Legislative Report

Legislative Report by Major (retired) Don Bishop

Well by now you should have seen or read the latest results of the mid-term elections. Now with the Republicans gaining the power in the Senate, there should be more of a chance of bills getting to the President's desk for his decision. Also perhaps a chance of a normal budget process being conducted, at least that is one of the things mentioned early on by the new Major Leader Mitch McConnell. Should we think a lot will change? In my opinion, No! Part of the reason for my opinion there is the "procedure rule" the Senate has where it takes a larger majority of Senators I.E. 60 of one party to be able to stop the other side of a filibuster. Not to mention the President can always decide to veto any piece of legislation, and I'm not sure the votes are there to over ride that action. SO for now we will just keep our eye on the items that we might be able to influence.

BUT first the reminder of the “good” news. Our cost of living “raise” for next year is going to be 1.7%. Not sure we will net any extra dollars but better than no raise. And also as a side note, why the cost of a barrel of oil has been going down with the unrest that is in the world, I have no idea as to why. But will also take that.

And now back to that dirty word I have been mentioning now for years – Sequestration. This has been affecting what cuts Congress thinks they have to follow when trying to do a budget. There is some talk now, with the shift of power, to try and get that act of 2013 modified so they can have some relief regarding Department of Defense matters. I have also learned on one of my trips that the Army has now been told to run an “experiment” with their simulation models on what effect an end strength of 320 thousand personnel would have on readiness and our ability to meet our projected requirements around the world. This is partly based on the “technology” we have to fight the next wars. Once again I have to disagree, as most of the time an enemy is not going to give up until a soldier of ours is up close and personal asking if they are now ready to give up, instead of being threatened by some drone firing a missile from the air. My opinion once again. There is some talk that relief from this act might be enacted during the lame duck session. One can always hope, I guess.

Finally I want to remind everyone that our emails, letters, and phone calls do make a difference to our elected leaders, especially if they start receiving enough of these on a particular issue. Not only do I recommend you contacting them, but share with your friends the issue, background, and the effects. Have them contact legislators as well. You might be surprised on how motivated a friend might become when they hear of something that doesn’t pass mustard with them as well. And don’t forget MOAA National continues to be recognized as one of the top lobbyists to Congress. As with the last election, our voice counts!!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving holiday period!

Treasurer’s Report

**Bank Balance as of 10/31/2014
\$1069.45**

DUES

2015 Dues are now payable and should be remitted no later than January 17, 2015 at the Keeter Center meeting. Dues are \$20. Annually.

The October meeting at Keeter Center was well attended. The presentation by Abbey Dyer, KY3 weather prophet was very interesting and informative. Thanks to Dave Porter for arranging such a good program.

Illnesses

I just spoke with Doctor John Huffman. He is suffering with cancers and is undergoing treatment. He is temporarily not practicing but hopes after successful treatments that he can resume his practice. We wish him well and successful treatments.

Don and Kay Johnston are both improving after cancer treatments. Don was able to attend Board Meeting.

Lou Doden still struggling with COPD and congestion failure but was also able to attend the meeting.

Barbara Bair had one knee replacement done last month and is in rehab now. She will have the other knee done in January. We wish her successful rehab and recovery.

New address

CAPT. Dick and Ruth Wight, former member's new address is:

Horn Rapids RV Resort, Site #99

2640 Kingsgate Way

Richland, WA 99354

Email: cgdick34@yahoo.com

Next Meeting- Dave Porter

Place: Golden Corral (Private Dining Room)

Date: November 15, 201

Time: 0830 to 0900 arrival

Dining: 0900-1000

Menu: Buffet with Drinks

Cost: (approx. \$9.00, military discount. Spouses invited.)

Program: Special Speaker (very informal)

December Meeting

Will be at Ledgestone Country Club at noon, December 13, 2014. It will be the Christmas Party meeting with buffet dinner at \$20. No speaker. More details in December Moaagram.

mozarkmoaa.com, our web site. Please visit it for member's names and addresses.

Addendum:

If anyone needs a member's address or contact information, contact Member Chairman Keith Oxby ozarkenglishman@centurytel.net or me, Winsor Morrison at winbyrd@suddenlink.net

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