

Volume 52, Issue 5  
May 2013

Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Dr. Bruce T. Robinson, MAJ, USA, Ret



Hi Everyone –

April was a busy month.

We gave out “gold bars” to 7 graduating ROTC cadets at the membership meeting. COL William Darby officiated and gave a very motivational talk to our future leaders.

The Chapter was also notified that we won the annual Communications Award in the category of Best Website. If you have not visited the website recently, you should do so and see what a winner looks like. Congratulations to our webmaster Phil Crocker.

We are also fully engaged with Chapter recruiting of new members. Based on data provided from MOAA National, we have undertaken a targeted mailing campaign to prospective members. As you will see inside, it is working – 16 new members for April.

Looking forward, May is the month of Memorial Day – take time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Chapter will lay a wreath in their memory at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Finally, we are having our summer party on June 22nd. The theme is a “Pre-4th of July Picnic”. We have requested an ensemble from the AMC Band to provide entertainment. A reservation form with all the details is inside.

- Bruce

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### *Get Involved!*

#### REMINDERS

**Monthly Membership Meeting:** Next meeting Wednesday 29 May 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club. Guest speaker is Mr. Eric Jackson from Genworth Financial.

**Auxiliary, WOW Support Group & MOAA Widow's Luncheon** are scheduled. See articles inside for dates & times.

**Breakfast:** Next breakfast is Saturday, 25 May 2013, 0900 hours at the Steak and Shake – Madison Square Mall.

**Governing Board:** Next meeting Thursday 9 May 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



## Legislative Corner

Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



### CHAPTER RECRUITING 2013 CAMPAIGN

As most of you have heard, there is a major chapter membership recruiting campaign underway. The Huntsville chapter has been active in this effort. We have contacted some 300 potential members and have actually signed 16 new members to date. The more members communicating with their elected representatives, the more “influence” MOAA potentially has on legislation. The focus of Chapter Recruiting 2013 is on recruiting new chapter members using the ‘potential members’ lists provided by national MOAA. This list has been updated and sent to chapters, and includes all current non-chapter MOAA members in each chapter’s ZIP code (catchment) area. Quarterly updates, containing the names of MOAA members who move into the chapter’s catchment area, are also being supplied to chapters. Included are e-mail addresses for non-chapter MOAA members who opt in to receiving e-mails from chapters. A major goal of the program is to provide chapters improved information on MOAA members in their area via the potential-members lists. In addition, there will be more tools to increase awareness for your chapter in your community, along with tips on how to plan a strategy for working the potential-members lists and techniques for sorting that information. The bulk of available incentives are targeted towards recruiting chapter members from the potential-members lists, with reduced incentives for national MOAA members recruited via the Gold Bar Program and other membership categories. But, regardless of incentives, be on the alert as you go about your daily activities for potential members who (like me) lived in the area for 25 years and held membership in national MOAA for probably 20 of them, but never was actually recruited or particularly exposed to the Huntsville Chapter. Who knows? Your next door neighbor might be a potential new friend or associate with a mutual background, and thus a possible chapter member.

### STORMING THE HILL

On 17 April 2013, the Annual Storming the Hill recently took place when MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, accompanied by members of the national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, plus members of MOAA’s active duty, Guard, Reserve, spouse and auxiliary advisory committees swarmed on Capitol Hill to visit nearly all 535 representatives and senators in support of key legislative priorities. This year, the “Hill-Stormers” met with their legislators, discussed the issues, provided fact sheets and brochures, and asked them to:

- Sustainment of the 1.8% active duty pay raise (fact sheet)
- Rejection of disproportional TRICARE fee hikes (fact sheet and brochure)
- Address remaining inequities for disabled retirees, surviving spouses, and Guard/Reserve retirees

*Continued on page 12*

#### 2013-2014 GOVERNING BOARD

##### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, [brobins@mitre.org](mailto:brobins@mitre.org)

1st Vice President: COL Norb Patla, USA-Ret, 256-890-3340, [npatla@mitre.org](mailto:npatla@mitre.org)

2nd Vice President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, [charles.clements@mda.mil](mailto:charles.clements@mda.mil)

Secretary: Col Don Kimminau, USAF-Ret, 256-489-5880, [don.kimminau@gmail.com](mailto:don.kimminau@gmail.com)

Treasurer: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rick675@hughes.net](mailto:rick675@hughes.net)

Army Representative: LTC Amo Hoerle, USA-Ret, 256-837-6253, [arhoerle@mediacombb.net](mailto:arhoerle@mediacombb.net)

Navy Representative: LCDR Harold F. Swanson, USN-Ret, 256-527-6217, [halaurel@att.net](mailto:halaurel@att.net)

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Immediate Past President: Temporarily Vacant

Second Past President: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, [glenncrawley@comcast.net](mailto:glenncrawley@comcast.net)

##### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: Vacant

Programs: CDR John Inman, USN-Ret, 256-425-8802, [inman331@msn.com](mailto:inman331@msn.com)

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, [jerry.haynes@irtc-hq.com](mailto:jerry.haynes@irtc-hq.com)

Personal Affairs: COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, [mrbill5779@comcast.net](mailto:mrbill5779@comcast.net)

Public Affairs (Publicity): CH (COL) Danny W. Burttram, USA-Ret, 256-651-6378, [dburtraml98@gmail.com](mailto:dburtraml98@gmail.com)

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Chapter Auxiliary & Hospitality: Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

Finance (Budget): CDR Robert Rolf, USN-Ret, 256-206-6164, [rolf@att.net](mailto:rolf@att.net)

Constitution and By-Laws: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, [glenncrawley@comcast.net](mailto:glenncrawley@comcast.net)

Audit: MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, [szeremi@comcast.net](mailto:szeremi@comcast.net)

Chapter Chaplain: CH (LTC) Bert E. Wiggers, AUS-Ret, 256-617-0055, [chbwig@mediacombb.net](mailto:chbwig@mediacombb.net)

Commissary & Post Exchange: CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret, 256-883-4456, [www33@knology.net](mailto:www33@knology.net)

FAHCLiaison: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Golf: Vacant

ROTC: Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, [charles.clements@mda.mil](mailto:charles.clements@mda.mil)

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, [brobins@mitre.org](mailto:brobins@mitre.org)

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##### Life Membership Trust

MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, [szeremi@comcast.net](mailto:szeremi@comcast.net) (June 2014)

CAPT William L. Howard, USN-Ret, 256-881-3168, [whoward@juno.com](mailto:whoward@juno.com) (March 2013)

CW3 William C. Billingsley, USA-Ret, 881-0513, [bill.billingsley@sparta.com](mailto:bill.billingsley@sparta.com) (March 2013)



**X / Commissary**  
**CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret**



**Need Addresses**

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

**EXCHANGE (Formerly the PX)**

I have Red Raspberry sets for my back yard and last time I looked they still had Blackberry sets. First Come, First served! We are adding parsley to our backyard herb garden of things like Mint and Rosemary. The PX has a large assortment of seeds way back with hardware and digging “stuff.” I have been able to buy 9mm ammo from time to time at the pistol/rifle/ gun counter to keep up my supply and to give me a reason to clean my Browning. I bought it just before going to Desert Storm with Third United States Army. The previous summer I found that when I fired for record with Third Army I had an interesting shot pattern if you counted my target and the ones on either side. Using the Beretta, 85% of us bolo’d!!!

The Crown Car Simulator will be at the Redstone Tent Sale Thursday, 2 May. Prizes will be given for the best times. On 3 May get your picture taken with your bottle of Jose Cuervo at the Redstone Express Tent Sale. Military Spouse Appreciation Day event in association with Army Community Service will be 7 May. The Exchange has “everything” for your Mother’s Day Shopping List with a Summer Fashion Sale 12 to 23 May. More Mother’s Day ideas are in the 2 Bee’s Boutique Tuesday to Saturday 9 9 AM to 5 PM.

*Continued on page 8*

**Concerns**

This month the following people were reported as being ill or recuperating and need our support and prayers:

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

**LTC Arno Hoerle**

256-837-6253

[arhoerle@mediacombb.net](mailto:arhoerle@mediacombb.net)

Navy/USMC Representative:

**LCDR Harold F. Swanson**

256-527-6217

[halaurel@att.net](mailto:halaurel@att.net)

Air Force Representative:

**Col Edward L. Uher**

256-882-6824

[biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

**29 May Membership Meeting**

**Guest Speaker**

**Mr. Eric Jackson from Genworth Financial**

Mr. Jackson has been specializing in the senior market for over 25 years, and is well versed in Long Term Care insurance. The market is changing a lot for those that are not already insured. Women’s rates are going WAY UP on new applicants (currently insured or those who enroll before the changes will not be affected) and couples discounts will be reduced by half. Mr. Jackson will talk about planning ahead to protect your loved ones, retirement income, asset’s and choice. He will also discuss Long Term Care insurance planning while the rates are still so low and before the changes take place.

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**March Membership Meeting**



COL Brion Chabot addresses the membership on the Military Order of World Wars

**Save the Date**

8 June 2013

Annual BBQ at the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home

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- Warrant Officers Association
- Association of the US Army
- Our Chapter

Come on out and enjoy some great BBQ with the heroes who reside there





## Carrie's Notes

**Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992**

**MOAA Auxiliary**

Having had a poor turnout on April 16th, there is little to report. Hopefully now that the weather is better more of our members will be able to attend. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you there.

### WOW Support Group

Those of us that were present at Gibson's BBQ in April unanimously agreed to return there in May. Everyone will be called as reservations are required for groups.



## Fox Army Health Center

**Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret**



### Update for Fox Army Health Center Renovations

Progress is underway in the renewal of Fox Army Health Center's HVAC system. "We are excited to have the opportunity to increase the energy efficiency of our building, lower our utility costs, and improve our customers' comfort level during their visit all at the same time," stated Col William Darby, Commander for Fox Army Health Center.

Currently in phase three of the eight-phase project, which will provide the facility, staff and beneficiaries with better air quality and air flow, all is going according to plan with the project, which is anticipated to be complete by summer 2014, according to Tracy Lonon, chief of the facility management branch for Fox Army Health Center.

"Everything is going extremely well," Lonon said. "The areas that have been renovated – phase 1 and phase 2 – have brand new mechanical components for the HVAC system in their respective areas. It's totally brand new." While renovations are underway, clinics and offices affected are moved to a transition trailer, located in the parking lot at the east side of the building. Signs alerting beneficiaries of what areas are located in the trailer are posted throughout the facility. Currently optometry, physical therapy and the uniform business office are located in the trailer. Each phase is expected to take 45 to 60 days. While a clinic's location may be different during that time, patient care remains the same.

"The clinics will not lose any integrity relative to Patient Care throughout this renovation," Lonon said. "There will be no reduction in clinical services while they're in the transition facility. All equipment and technology used in Building 4100 clinical space will be maintained in the transition building. Other than accessing another location for treatment, all services will be seamless. We've done an excellent job with internal planning that allows us to meet patient and staff demands."

*Continued on page 8*



**Chaplain's Corner**  
**CH (LTC) Bert Wiggers, AUS-Ret**

**The Essential 100 Challenge (E100)**

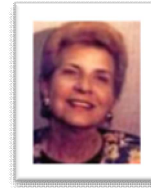
**Have you ever wanted to read the Bible but didn't know where to start? What should I study? Who will help me? Making it through the Bible is a challenge, but it's worth it. That's what E100 is all about.**

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**MEMORIALS**

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to: Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

HCMAAA is reporting time spent on volunteer activities to Redstone Arsenal. Please keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month and report them to Ray Weinberg at 256-885-0089 or [ray.kw@juno.com](mailto:ray.kw@juno.com).



**MOAA Widow's Luncheon**  
**Liz Townsend**  
**256-721-9762**

**14 May 2013**

The MOAA widow's luncheon will be held on Friday, 14 May at the 88 Buffet, 6125 University Drive, Huntsville, AL. Phone 256-971-9870

Joanne Miller, phone 256-883-2755, will be our hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

Please call the telephone committee: Fran Tyra, 256-881-6938 for reservations.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

- COL Robert English, USA**
- COL Ronald Funderburk, USA**
- LTC John Lewis, USA**
- 1LT Bill Redmond, USA**
- LTC Michael Switzer, USA**
- CAPT Donald Hauler, USN**
- MAJ Bill Maroney, USMC**
- LTG Patrick O'Reilly, USA**
- COL Wayne Fowler, USA**
- CW3 Monty Lewis, USA**
- BG Eric Smith, USA**
- COL Raymond Wegner, USMC**
- Col Charles Orr, USAF**
- COL Ray Woolery, USA**
- LTC Steven Palmer, USA**
- MAJ Sean Davis, USA**



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*X/Commissary – continued from page 3*

## **COMMISSARY**

Mr. Crawford, Store Manager, said there will be Sidewalk Sales of paper products in May. There will also be water, and probably some canned goods and maybe some meat from a cooler truck. The store is trying to have a Farmer's Market of fresh produce (corn, watermelon, squash, etc, at special prices in the produce department. Back in 1981 when I was in the BOQ for a year school in Hawk Air Defense, another guy and I washed our cars out front every Saturday with a bottle of wine/Perrier sitting on the step "for cooling purposes." By the time we finished, we were usually finished and went in to play computer games or go shoot lousy golf. We were too smart to actually drive!!! The store stocks Perrier in two sizes. We go through about 8 to 12 bottles each week for a low (0) calorie refreshment. The store keeps bananas in produce and try to keep a circular stand of ripe bananas at checkout. Once ripe they go fast but CAN be put in the refrigerator if ripe NO MATTER WHAT Conchita, The Banana said in that old commercial! (I'm Conchita, the banana, and I've come to say...." We get frozen Spicy Meatballs from the frozen section (where else?) and keep them on hand as the meat course or to put in with Marinara Sauce or Spaghetti Sauce. We have found all kinds of frozen fruit/berries that are great in smoothies or in my wife's diet drinks for added nutrient. 🇺🇸

*Fox – continued from page 5*

The project replaces FAHC's 35-year-old HVAC system.

"The difference between this system and the old system is that the old system put a constant volume of air," Lonon said. "When the air conditioning or heating was on, the air blew out at the same speed 24 hours per day. If there were any adjustments that needed to be made, they had to be made manually. The new system is designed to correct itself if the temperature is above or below the set point. For example, if we set a room thermostat at 72degrees and for some reason it gets to be 75degrees in that space; the new system will automatically make the necessary adjustments without us having to do it. We now have the Rolls Royce of HVAC systems. We are very state of the art in terms of what is being installed in this project."

The remaining phases of the project will impact the following divisions at Fox, when those areas will be moved to the transition trailer:

- Phase 3 (currently underway): Optometry, physical therapy, uniform business office
- Phase 4: Patient advocate, quality management, radiology, behavioral health
- Phase 5: Tricare
- Phase 6: Command suite
- Phase 7: Facilities, logistics, housekeeping
- Phase 8: Dental clinic, lab

In addition to HVAC renovations, windows within the command suite will be replaced with new energy efficient windows. In addition to better air quality and airflow, the entire project will provide Fox with cost savings.

"Once renovations are complete, this is going to be a big energy savings to the facility, and ultimately to the medical command," Lonon said. "With this project, in every area where we are replacing the HVAC system, those areas are also receiving new LED lighting. With LED lighting, the lights are brighter and they burn less energy, thus reducing our energy costs on an annual basis. We'll be reducing our monthly expenditures that we pay to keep the building running. Conserving energy is a must." 🇺🇸





## We honor your dedicated, loyal service with ours.

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**Huntsville Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
**P.O. Box 1301**  
**Huntsville, AL 35807-0301**

## Membership Application or Renewal Confirmation

Yes! I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter.

New		Renewal		Interested in a chapter Life Membership?	
One year \$10.00				Contact us for pricing (based on your age)	
2 years \$20.00					
3 years \$30.00					
Optional hard copy Sentinel \$10.00 per year				Our award-winning newsletter, <i>The Sentinel</i> , is delivered via e-mail	
Total amount enclosed				If you would like to receive a hard copy through the US Mail instead, please include \$10 to help defray the cost of printing and mailing	
First Name		MI		Last Name	
Preferred Name		Birthday		Spouse's Name	
Grade		Branch of Service		MOAA National Membership Number	
Active		Retired		Former Officer	
				Reserve	
				NG	
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### Membership Statistics

Total Members: 445  
 Life Members: 279  
 Auxiliary Members: 82  
  
 New Members: 16  
 Renewals: 8  
 Deaths: None  
 Dropped for not renewing: 59



# LEGACY PLANNING



## Ken Askew, CIC Financial Advisor

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Phone: 256.536.7320

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## 30 Birthdays in May Happy Birthday!



LCDR Edward King, USN  
LTC James Carter, USA  
LTC Hector New, USA  
Col William Gibson, USAF  
Col John Morrison, USAF  
Mrs Mabel Byrd  
COL Harold Hicks, USA  
LTC Randall Withrow, USA  
Col Howard Camp, USAF  
CAPT Lawrence Grimes, USN  
LTC Allyn Griffiths, USA  
COL James Allred, USA  
LTC Paul Hays, USA  
Lt Col Arthur Miller, USAF  
LTC Donnie Henley, USA

Lt Col Arthur DeLisle, USAF  
Lt Col Louis Davis, USAF  
COL James Bizer, USA  
MAJ James Powel, USA  
CW4 Jeffrey Sumners, USA  
Mrs Claudia Jersey  
COL Gregory Parlier, USA  
Mrs Hannelore Murphy  
LTC David Pray, USA  
LTC Michael Switzer, USA  
CWO4 Gary Sweet, USN  
MAJ Robert Rutledge, USA  
MAJ Loran McKinley, USA  
COL James Treadway, USA  
CH (LTC) James Johnson, USA

## Scholarships

The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one scholarship each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Norb Patla for details.



## TAPS

### None this month

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

## Treasurer's Report CAPT Richard West, USN For the Month of March 2013

Beginning Balance	\$9183.09
Credits	907.00
Debits	183.00

Ending Balance \$9907.09





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**Web Page: [huntsvillemoaa.org](http://huntsvillemoaa.org)**

*(Legislative – continued from page 2)*

MOAA Hill-Stormers received very positive feedback from most legislators. Our hope is that this will translate to support for these goals as the House and Senate Armed Services Committees begin drafting the FY2014 Defense Authorization Bill in the coming weeks. The Hill-Stormers’ personal efforts were buttressed by MOAA-sponsored full page ads in The Hill and Politico newspapers on the 17th. National MOAA expressed gratitude at members’ response to the alert they sent recently asking you to support this effort by emailing your legislators. Membership sent nearly 25,000 messages to Capitol Hill, and many legislators and staffers referenced these messages during their meetings with the MOAA Stormers.

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A VA HOME LOAN IN 2013?**

In order to obtain a VA home loan, you must first fill out VA Form 26-1880, the request for your Certificate of Eligibility. This certificate is issued only through the Veterans Administration, and is the first step towards applying for your loan. Veterans, active duty, guard or reserve, and military spouses potentially qualify for this certificate. Keep in mind that the Certificate of Eligibility, while necessary, only allows an eligible individual to apply for a VA home loan: it does not guarantee a loan approval. Eligibility for the Certificate is based on an individual’s (or spouse’s) military service and the lender’s approval of the individual’s credit history.

**VA DEFENDS DISABILITY CLAIMS SYSTEM**

The Department of Veteran Affairs has embarked on a campaign to demonstrate progress in tackling it’s troubled disability claims system, noting the agency has processed more than 4 million claims in four years. The VA has increased the number of claims by changing rules on PTSD diagnoses, adding nine qualifying presumptive diseases for Gulf War veterans, expanding benefits for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange and launching an outreach program to help Veterans apply for benefits. Each year we hear of a new plan by the VA to improve their system and each system seems to bring further problems, like last year they scrubbed their new computer system that they spent millions on to improve and speed up help for our disabled and ill veterans. 