

MOAA REPORTER

MOAA Greater Dallas & North Texas Chapter

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General Membership Meeting 12 September 2020

Benefits of Membership



Jim Carman, MOAA Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member Support, will be our guest speaker at our September meeting. MOAA's mission is best captured in its two bylines: "One Powerful Voice" and "Never Stop Serving". MOAA is the leading advocate for a strong national defense and matters affecting active, former and retired members of the Armed Forces. MOAA also offers a myriad of services to its members and to the military community at large. CAPT Carman is a 25-year veteran of the Navy. He joined MOAA in 2012 and, after serving in several positions, now leads MOAA's Councils, Chapters and Member services activities. Carman's presentation will focus on how membership not only benefits us as individuals but the entire military community. He will also provide an update on MOAA's legislative and other initiatives. **Due to the COVID-19 crisis we will not be meeting face-to-face. Instead, we will meet via a Zoom video conference call. Instructions for joining the meeting will be sent via separate email in late August.** Contact Dave Schafer, 214-577-4107, if you have any questions.

Coming Soon – the MOAA Summer Storm



MOAA National's Virtual Storm in May earned support from the House to put a halt to the MTF restructuring and the military medical billet cuts. This is in the House's version of the NDAA – but not in the Senate's. DoD has already announced a delay to these efforts but a halt is not enough. House provisions also require DoD to conduct additional analysis on the availability of civilian care for beneficiaries moved out of MTFs. This legislation is essential to ensuring military beneficiaries maintain access to high quality health care. This summer, MOAA will focus all of its efforts on getting the Senate on board supporting this one very important issue: Halt MTF restructuring and reduction of 18,000 military medical billets. Our engagement with the Senate is crucial as the Congress heads to a Conference Committee where differences are sorted out. We know the House supports, and the Senate does not – but they can be compelled to go along with the House, especially since our ask is very reasonable and essential to ensuring beneficiary access to healthcare.

The Launch will be the week of 3 August, with a MOAA President's Message via email and through The MOAA Newsletter on 6 August via email and online. Also, the Summer Storm website will be live on 6 August. The Chapter will send out additional information on how you can support this effort as soon as it becomes available from MOAA National.

To summarize the MOAA National's Summer Storm initiative:

- Summer Storm kicks off 6 August and will run through 11 September
- Website: www.MOAA.org/SummerStorm will be up on 6 August
- Involves in-person or virtual visits with Senators can also be achieved by letters, emails, and phone calls

- Focus is on the House Language for Sections 715 and 716, halting MTF restructuring and billet reductions – this will all be clearly articulated in a storming factsheet available on our microsite when it is launched
- Bottom Line Messages to the Senate:
 - “Ensure the NDAA, out of the Conference Committee, includes the House language in Sections 715 and 716”
 - “Ensure the NDAA is signed into law”

MOAA Foundation Grants



The MOAA Foundation has awarded two \$5,000 grants to the Chapter. The Community Outreach Grant provides \$5,000 for the Chapter to use to assist Veterans and their families for Housing, Food Assistance, Employment, Health, Family Support, Community Reintegration, Financial Assistance, Legal Assistance, and Transportation. The COVID-19 Grant provides \$5,000 for the Chapter to use to assist Veterans and their families in the following areas: PPE supplies, Health and safety supplies, Housing expenses and repairs (including utilities, internet access, rent, etc.), Emergency, short-term financial support, Transportation assistance, Food and clothing services, and Resources or school supplies for military children. In June, the Chapter provided 300 masks and 200 pairs of vinyl gloves to help the Veterans Center of North Texas safely open their doors to help Veterans impacted by COVID-19. In July, the Chapter provided rental assistance to two Veteran families who lost employment due to COVID-19. We also provided emergency shelter to another Veteran family. MOAA’s generous grants have enabled the Chapter to ***“Never Stop Serving”*** our North Texas Veteran community. If you know of a military family in need of help, contact Chuck Kelley at 202-210-8336 or Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107.

Veterans Center of North Texas Needs Volunteers



Support for the Veterans Center of North Texas (VCONT) is the Chapter’s primary Community Outreach Program. Six of VCONT’s 24 volunteers are Chapter members. VCONT needs a minimum of 30 volunteers to fully staff all of its work shifts. If you can spare 4 hours per week and want to help Veterans in need, consider volunteering. Hearing “Thank You” when handing a family of four a week’s supply of food or “I just got hired” from a Veteran who lost their job due to COVID-19 will bring a big smile to your heart. Let’s get 6 Chapter members to volunteer to help VCONT reach its goal of 30 volunteers. If you are ready to help, contact VCONT directly by phone at 214-600-2966 or email at veterans@vcont.org. For more information on how they can help, visit the VCONT website www.vcont.org. If you have questions, contact Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107 or Paul Hendricks at 469-667-7750.

Some Free Time on Your Hands?

The Chapter is looking for volunteers to work with the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs on projects that are important to both MOAA and the Chapter. We have volunteer opportunities ranging from one-time events such as legislative visits to recurring support for committee activities. You can choose to support legislative, membership, JROTC, membership, personal affairs, or community outreach activities. If you would like to help, call Dave Schafer at 214-577-4107 or email him at moaschafer@att.net.



Time for a Mid-Year Retired Pay Account Checkup

It's important for retirees to regularly review and update their retired pay account. Keeping your account current will ensure that DFAS can get in touch with you if there is information you need to know about your retired pay and help make sure that outdated information doesn't cause difficulties for you or your loved ones down the road. Use this handy checklist to do a retired pay checkup at least once a year on the myPay website <https://mypay.dfas.mi> You can find more information in the [DFAS June 2020 Newsletter](#) or by calling DFAS Customer Service at 800-321-1080.

1. Is your mailing address current?
2. Is your email address in myPay current?
3. Are your allotments correct?
4. Is your income tax withholding correct?
5. Have you had any major life changes?
6. Is your Arrears of Pay beneficiary correct?
7. Is your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage and beneficiary correct?