



The Sunflower Leaflet

Serving the Military Community of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties of Kansas January 2012

2011 OFFICERS

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CAPT USMC
(913) 661-9413

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COL USA (R)
913-681-2312

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PRESIDENT:
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(913)- 669-1699

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DIRECTOR:
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(913) 393-2903

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(913) 341-1864

DIRECTOR:
VACANT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all of our Sunflower MOAA family. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. 2011 was a very productive year for our Chapter and I am proud to say that we have really made a contribution with our Community Service activities. We had some great speakers in 2011 and we are excited to start out the year with COL Linda Crosser's presentation on her experiences as the Army Chief of Nurses in Afghanistan. Please attend our January dinner on January 17th and RSVP to Pat Murphy as soon as possible.

We also saw some major health challenges to our members and their spouses. Hopefully all are doing well and are on the road to recovery. Let's hope that 2012 is a healthy one for all of us and our families.

In looking ahead to 2012 we all see that there will be a lot of local, national, and worldwide issues facing us. The election of 2012 could be significant in a number of ways. It's very important that we all take our right to vote seriously and we should encourage others to do so as well. If you should agree or disagree with the policies of leaders in Washington, D.C., you should let your voice be heard. MOAA is there to support all of us, therefore, take the time to read the monthly legislative updates to keep you informed.

Thank you for all of your support this past year and I look forward to seeing you all at one of our Sunflower Chapter events in 2012.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Naster

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 31, 2011 Country Club Bank statement		
Beginning balance as of 30 November 2011		\$5,131.58
Total additions	+\$750.00	
Total subtractions	-\$133.19	
Ending balance as of 31 December 2011		\$5,748.39



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SECRETARY 'S REPORT

The annual Chapter dues collection for 2012 is well under way. So far 69% (60) of our Sunflower members have paid their 2012 dues. As of today, 26 Sunflower members have not responded. A renewal form is on the last page for those who require a copy. To confirm that I've received your 2012 dues payment, a roster of paid-up members is included on page 6.

The Chapter's member statistics as of January 1, 2012 are:

Army	45
Air Force	15
Marine Corps	8
Navy	14
Auxiliary	<u>5</u>
Total membership	87

Colonel (Ret) John Moore, USA, is the latest Sunflower member who joined this past December.

One Sunflower member, Major Carlin Williams, USA, is currently stationed in Afghanistan. Keep Major Williams and his family in your prayers.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17 TH, CHAPTER DINNER AND MEETING

The first Chapter Dinner-Meeting is set for Tuesday, January 17th at Embassy Suites. We have a special guest speaker for this month. COL (Ret) Linda Crosser, US Army, is an Afghanistan veteran who deployed with the 325th Field Hospital from Independence in 2003 and 2004. COL Crosser served as the US Army, Chief of Nurses for all US forces in Afghanistan. Her presentation will focus on her experiences in Afghanistan working out of the 325th Combat Support Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The nights schedule is:

06:00-06:30	Registration and Social
06:30-07:15	Dinner
07:15-08:00	COL Crosser's presentation

The cost remains at \$12.00 per person with a "pay as you go" bar. Pay by check or cash at the door. Request you make your reservation early so I can order the meals. Either email me at murphyk1270@att.net or leave a message on my cell phone (913-669-1699) for your reservation.



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EVENTS ON THE HORIZON FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS

Sunday, February 19. The board is planning a Sunday Brunch in February instead of our normal 3rd Tuesday meeting. More to follow once a location is selected.

Tuesday, March 20. Look for a different type of dinner-meeting in March. The plan is to have members relate their “Humor In Uniform” tales starting with the thought: “Where were you when...”. We plan to have a large world map, so each member can pinpoint the locations where his or her adventure began.

Tuesday, April 17. This spring meeting will focus on gardening and landscaping in Johnson County. Last year the K-State Research & Extension Master Gardener presentation benefitted all members, amateur and experienced.

Tuesday, May 15. It will be time for the Chapter’s annual business meeting and election of 2012-2013 board of officers.

Metcalfe Ave Flag Raising on select holidays from May through November.

Supporting the Olathe Marathon in April.

Please note that from June through August the chapter does not conduct monthly meetings.

TWO MONTH “DOC FIX” DEAL

In a classically convoluted way the chances of a “doc fix” – which would prevent a 27% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to medical providers starting the first of the year – went from hopeful to bleak back to hopeful over the past two weeks. Last month the House passed a two-year doc fix along with a one-year extension of payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits (H.R. 3630).

With vastly differing opinions on how to offset the cost of paying for this long-term fix the Senate amended the House version and reduced the fix to a much smaller two-month patch with the stated goal of hammering out a long-term solution in early 2012. After passing this short-term patch the Senate promptly left town for their holiday recess. The political atmosphere went from promising to hopeless when the House refused to consider the Senate’s two-month patch and instead, appointed conferees in hopes of working out the differences.

After much finger pointing and with strong constituency criticism, cooler heads prevailed as House and Senate leaders agreed to a short-term, two-month bill with a guaranteed conference between both chambers for a longer-term, one-year fix.

MOAA is appalled that Congress waited until the last minute and failed to come to a



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longer-term solution; however, we remain hopeful that a longer-term solution will be developed by the conferees after the first of the year.

AS I SEE IT - CONSIDER YOURSELF WARNED

By Col. Steve Strobridge, USAF-Ret.

As we come to the end of 2011, many are thinking we had a successful year and dodged some really bad things that could have greatly affected the military community.

A year ago, the president's deficit commission proposed freezing military pay, whacking military retirement, dramatically raising health care costs for retired service members of all ages, eliminating commissaries, and much, much more.

After 12 months of hand-wringing over how Congress might act on those proposals and what the grossly misnamed congressional "super committee" might suggest, it seems we've come to the end the year with no such changes.

But if that's what you're thinking, you are wrong, wrong, wrong.

The \$460 billion defense budget cut enacted in August 2011 is going to affect you and your family. We just don't yet know exactly how badly.

A Pentagon-proposed plan to implement the cuts is sitting on the president's desk, and all indications are that a large share will come from people, compensation, and health care programs. Within the next two months, that plan will be all over the news.

And that's not all.

The super committee's inaction means a budget sequester aimed at cutting almost another \$500 billion from the defense budget over the next 10 years is already in motion to take effect a year from now.

Many in Congress are up in arms over what cuts that deep will do to national security, but there are just as many who are determined to have the cuts come from the Pentagon rather than other programs.

What's at stake? COLAs to all federal annuities, TRICARE, TRICARE For Life, major force and compensation cuts, commissaries, exchanges, family-support programs, and just about every military program you and your family use.

If you survived the budget cuts of the 1970s, '80s, or '90s, you know how bad those were. But they were nothing compared to the budget pressures we're all going to face over the next four or five years.

We congratulate ourselves on our successes of the past decade — which were due to the power of MOAA members' grassroots input to their legislators.



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This year, members set an all-time record on that score, sending more than 1.3 million messages to their elected officials via media we can count.

That total includes more than 820,000 emails sent through MOAA's website, blasting past last year's previous record of 499,000.

But it will take a far broader effort to avoid budget disasters in the years ahead.

First, there are high-powered, well-connected, well-heeled lobbyists fighting (and making hefty political contributions) to preserve their shares of the budget pie — at your expense.

Second, if you look past the impressive 820,000 MOAA-generated emails, you find only 67,000 individuals generated all of those messages.

In other words, most of MOAA's legislative effort is being carried by less than 20 percent of its members.

Are the other 80 percent oblivious to the threat? Do they think, "It's just politics and will blow over like most of the threats of the past 10 years have?" Do they assume their input wouldn't make a difference?

Regardless of the reason, the complacency and inertia of "the other 80 percent" is the biggest budgetary threat to you and your family. If you're in that 80 percent, you're your own worst enemy. Your continued inaction will jeopardize not only your family and your future but also the families and futures of your brothers and sisters in arms.

The issue here isn't ensuring the military community takes no budget hits. The nation's budget problems are such that no segment of America will escape taking some significant hits. The issue is resisting taking a disproportional share of hits simply because those with other interests are more active and better connected and have deeper pockets.

If you're not getting involved to defend what your service and sacrifice has earned — and actively seeking to motivate others to protect theirs (and yours) — you're helping paint the target on your COLAs and health care and on the troops and their families and your own family's future well-being.

Consider yourself warned.



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MOAA MEMBERS SET A RECORD

MOAA is thankful for all of our members that took the time to contact their legislators this year on issues important to them and others in the military community.

Below is a quick snapshot of our most active issues. Hopefully you took part in the record setting 1.3 million messages (includes e-mails, letters, and phone calls) we sent to Congress this year.

- Protect military people from disproportionate budget cuts – 525,000
- Oppose TRICARE changes – 102,000
- Active duty pay – 86,000
- Prevent Medicare/TRICARE cut – 60,000
- Oppose a chained CPI – 30,000
- Reject changes to commissaries – 26,000
- Repeal the SBP/DIC offset – 27,000
- Enhance concurrent receipt – 25,000

If you didn't participate in 2011 we hope you'll make it one of your New Year's Resolutions. Our user-friendly [Congressional messaging system](#) will make it one of your easiest resolutions to accomplish.

List of Sunflower Members with Paid 2012 Dues

NAME	RANK	BRANCH
ALLEN, Lon J.	MAJ	USA
ASBURY, Roy W.	MAJ	USA
BAKER, Donald E.	LCDR	USN
BAKER, Maryannelle M.	Mrs	AUX
BAKER, Willard D. (Bill)	Col	USAF
BALL, Robert E.	Col	USMC
BROOKS, John M.	COL	USA
BROWN, William (Doug)	COL	USA
BURNS, James R.	COL	USA
CROVISIER, Richard C.	MAJ	USA
DILDAY, Douglas L.	MAJ	USA
DIXON, Edie	Mrs	AUX
GORMAN, Robert F.	MAJ	USAF
GUCKENHEIMER, Dan	MAJ	USAF
HALLADAY, John W.	COL	USA
HANSON, Raymond F.	Lt Col	USAF
HARRIS, Terrance B.	CPT	USA



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HENRY, James R.	CAPT	USN
HUFNAGEL, David A.	COL	USA
KNIGHT, Jerri L.	Mrs	
KOBLER, Robert H.	CDR	USN
LATHAM, William C.	LTC	USA
LATHEN, Sylvester H.	CWO4	USN
LEE, Kathy S.	ILt	USA
LEHR, John J.	MAJ	USAF
LOGAN, Hollis B.	Col	USAF
MAHANY, Terry	LCDR	USN
MALNICOF, Harry B.	Maj	USMC
MALSBARY, Samuel C.	LCDR	USN
MAYERS, Joseph C.	LtCol.	USMC
McDOWELL, Mike	CAPT	USN
McKILLIP, Gary W	Capt	USAF
MEISENZAHL, Thomas W., Jr.	LTC	USA
MIELE, Anthony (Tony)	LTC	USA
MEYER, Gerald J.	LTC	USA
MUNSON, Charles T.	LCDR	USN
MURPHY, Patrick T.	LTC	USA
PITNEY, John C.	CAPT	USN
REIMANN, Rene Jr.	COL	USAF
RUE, Norman L.	COL	USA
SANKS, William E.	Maj	USMC
SCHMEDEMANN, Keith M	COL	USA
SCHMIDT, Larry S.	Col	USMC
SPENCER, Charles K	IstLt	USMC
SWEENEY, Leo J.	LTC	USA
SYMANSKI, Michael	MG	USA
TOROK, Ernest A.	COL	USA
TRAVIS, John (Jack) W.	LCDR	USN
VAZQUEZ, Sheldon P.	LCDR	USN
WELLS, Gary V	Col	USAF
WOLFF, Robert A.	LTC	USA
YOUNGDORF, Larry	COL	USA
ZURCHER, Robert E. Jr.	LTC	USA



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It's that time again to renew our local Sunflower Chapter membership for 2012. Annual dues are \$20.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for auxiliary (widows) members. Renewals are due on January 1, 2012.

Please make your check payable to: MOAA – The Sunflower Chapter.

Please mail your renewal and remittance to the Chapter's post office box or give them to Pat Murphy (Sunflower Chapter Treasurer) at the next membership meeting.

The Sunflower Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 25421
Overland Park, KS 66225

If, for some reason, you are not renewing your membership, please help us by returning this notice annotated with the reason for your non-renewal.

Patrick J. Murphy
Secretary - Treasurer

-----*(Please return this bottom portion with your remittance)*-----



The Sunflower Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ MOAA # _____

Indicate your email address, so we can update the chapter's roster and you can receive the monthly newsletter and other announcements electronically. Your email address is kept private within the chapter and not shared with outside agencies. Thanks

Email Address: _____