**Military Officers Association of America**

**Bella Vista Chapter, Bella Vista AR**

**NEWSLETTER**

**4th Quarter 2020**

**8 Dec 2020**

President’s message:

As we enter into the New Year and I reflect on 2020 and the events of the last couple weeks, I am flushed with mixed emotions over our ongoing battle with COVID 19 and the consternation of our democratic system, yet I still have to express thankfulness for my blessings. One of these greatest blessings is that I am able to live in a country, under a flag, that allows me the freedom to believe, in my God, and serve my community in a manner that I see fit. Within this, is the privilege to be part of the Bella Vista MOAA. A community that, in previous years, was full of inspirational and motivated individuals that brought together a focused fellowship and had significant strength in supporting the community and its members.

As with all things, time and age has taken toll on this group of leaders, which has left a significant void in the operation of our organization. If you add the impact of the COVID on our community it looks even bleaker. If we look for “rainbows“, in this distressing situation, it doesn’t appear we have lost a member to this virus and we have relative financially stability.

As we enter 2021, I encourage each Chapter member to reflect on your past with MOAA. As the graphic below illustrates, we are in need for individuals to be more active in our organization. There are various ways to serve and support, but most of all, I encourage you to reach out to a fellow MOAA member and offer some voice of support as we enter into this holiday season. If there is a need identified, please contact Jon Boswell or myself to see if MOAA can help in some way.

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|  | *CURRENT/ NOMINEE* | *NOTES* |
| Chapter President (elected) | Andy Seal | Secretary duties also |
| 1st Vice President (elected) | None | Don Anderson has agreed to serve, however does not want to advance to other positions. Board has not discussed and this has not been voted on.  |
| 2nd Vice President (elected) | NONE | NEED NOMINEES |
| Secretary (elected) | NONE | NEED NOMINEES.  |
| Treasurer (elected)  | Lorna Sterrett |  |
| Programs Chair (appointed) | NONE | NEED NOMINEE |
| Membership Chair (appointed) | Jon Boswell | Jon Boswell |
| ROTC Programs (appointed) | NONE | NEED NOMINEES. Chair would interact with college and high school ROTC programs in the area  |
| Pastoral Chair (appointed) | Mike Moravits | Current chaplain Joe Tropansky will assist. Goal is to expand this program to include outreach to members. Would require attending board meetings as needed.  |
| Legislative Chair (appointed) | NONE | NEED NOMINEES.  |
| Scholarship Chair (appointed) | NONE |  |
| Flags/Schools Chair (appointed)  | NONE | NEED NOMINEES. Chair would lead outreach to local schools |

General Report:

2020 Board Membership Meetings: February was last face to face meeting. Minutes have been posted. Email chain communication with Board members have occurred for business purposes.

2020 General Membership Meetings: 28 Jan meeting minutes were approved and have been posted. Scheduled March, May, July, September and November meetings were postponed due to COVID protective measures.

Tentative 2021 Board meeting dates pending: 26 Feb, 23 April, 25 June, 27 Aug, 22 Oct, 10 Dec.

Tentative 2021 General membership dinner dates pending:

26 Jan, 23 March, 25 May, 27 July, 28 Sept, 16 Nov.

General Membership meeting: Given our increase of COVID exposures we will schedule a Zoom meetings for our routine scheduled 26 January meeting. So, consider a quiet dinning event with your significant other, next to your computer with a MOAA Zoom meeting! A link will be sent to your email account that will give details and access to the meeting.

Treasurer Report: 11/10/2020 Lorna Sterrett gives a summary of the finances, with our Checking $433.86, Money Market $3190.40.

Scholarships: We provided two $2000 dollar scholarship awards this year, exclusively, to relatives of our Bella Vista MOAA chapter members:

Congratulations to our recipients Grace Justice attending the University of Wisconsin EAU Claire and Cole Krumrey attending Tulsa Tech in Oklahoma.  We plan to offer scholarship offerings again this year. Due to our finances we will offer two $500 scholarships this next cycle. Please get the word out to any of your family that may qualify for application.

Much appreciation to Darwin Krumrey on administration of this year’s scholarship committee. It also must be noted that Darwin and Nancy moved back to Iowa in October. We wish them the best with their relocation.

Fund Raising: Bella Vista Recycle center still isn’t able to pay volunteers until recycle material prices recover, thus no income is generated from any volunteer services. We will start holding raffles to win dinner for two at local restaurants as fundraising events until we have developed a process for other fund-raising opportunities. More information will be coming on these offerings. If you are interested in leading this effort please contact me.

Dues: Reminder that annual membership dues are once again upon us. Please respond to our membership coordinator’s (Jon Boswell) efforts to contact.

VA Magazine-Book drop: VA volunteer service remains on hold in take donations until the renovation is complete. The chapter will continue to harvest and store paperback books until the VA completes renovation. We have been allowed storage space at the recycle center to store these books. If you have books stored at home and need to get them out of your way, please contact Andy to make arrangement.

Council of Chapters (COC): The October meeting was held in Jonesboro with Andy attending. Jonesboro chapter held their inaugural annual golf tournament that weekend. They report team signup for this event was very large and should be a significant fundraising event for them. The COC continues to work on survivor benefits legislation and moving forward with restructuring state chapter regions that will logistically make it easier for each chapter to better serve its members. Discussion on ROTC and JROTC program development within the state. NWA Chapter is heavily involved with U of A ROTC programs. Bentonville high has been working on the development of a Navy JROTC program. Please contact me if you are interested in serving with this program. Please visit the COC webpage at https://www.moaa-arkansas.org for further information on legislation issues.

If anyone has skills with working on web page development, your assistance would be appreciated. I have tried working on it, but I haven’t been able to organize it in a way that is satisfying to me. I need an objective eye and hand.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for continuing to support our organization.

God’s Speed, Nelson (Andy) Seal, Lt. Col, USAF, retired