



# Military Officers Association of America Central Shenandoah Valley Chapter



## ***“Communicator”***

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### ***May Meeting***

All of you have received Chapter President Jim Justis' letter on the importance of our May dinner meeting on May 20. A speaker has not been scheduled so we will have time to address the current status of our chapter.

As Jim stated in his letter we determined that a decision would have to be made by May as to the viability of the chapter. He provided the background on the loss of members, vacancies for officer positions, duties of officers and other critical positions.

Please make every effort to attend the May meeting so we can have a realistic discussion about what the membership wants. We need to find candidates for the two openings on the Board and for the three Coordinator positions.

If you cannot attend the May meeting, please take the time to send Jim your thoughts and ideas. Several members have already done so but we need more input from those who cannot attend. As you consider your position here are some matters to consider.

(1) Should we hold quarterly meetings rather than monthly meetings? (2) Could multiple members hold a single position? (3) Should we split the duties of Board Secretary?

These and other options will be presented at the May meeting. Your response will determine the future of our chapter. Please take time to re-read Jim's letter and be prepared to make your thoughts known at the May dinner meeting.

### ***Military Health Care Overhaul***

In approving its version of the FY 2017 defense authorization bill this week, the House Armed Services Committee included big changes for the military health care system.

On the TRICARE fee front, the bill would apply a new fee structure similar to that proposed by the Pentagon for future service entrants, beginning in 2018.

However, the bill would grandfather currently serving and retired members and families against the large fee hikes proposed in the Pentagon's FY 2017 defense budget.

Fee increases in future years would be indexed by COLA - the percentage increase in military retired pay rather than the (higher) health care inflation index proposed by the DoD. This is in line with MOAA's and The Military Coalition's recommendation.

The bill proposes no changes for TRICARE For Life or TRICARE Prime. It envisions changing the current TRICARE Standard program to a preferred provider system with flat-dollar co pays for most doctor visits.

Retired members and families wishing to stay in this updated version of TRICARE Standard (which would be renamed TRICARE Preferred) would need to enroll annually (no enrollment is required at present). An annual enrollment fee of \$100/\$200 (single/family) will be required of currently retired members on TRICARE Preferred, but wouldn't start until 2020 - once DoD demonstrates it has improved its capacity to provide timely access to quality care.

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**Thanks for  
Your Service!**

*(From page 1)*

The most dramatic change would involve placing all military treatment facilities (MTFs) under the direction of the Defense Health Agency, effective Oct. 1, 2018, for purposes of unified policy, administration, and budgeting. MOAA has long supported this proposal based on the cost and inefficiency of building military health care programs around three separate systems for each of the services.

The bill also establishes a wide variety of requirements intended to enhance beneficiary access to care. This includes extended hours at MTF's for primary care, providing urgent care until 11 P.M., and authorizing unlimited access to urgent care without a referral. The proposal also creates metrics for quality of care, wait times, provider-to-beneficiary ratios, and provider productivity.

In addition, the bill would authorize military facilities to sell durable medical equipment (e.g., hearing aids) at cost to family members of retirees.

All in all, MOAA supports the HASC's balanced approach to reforming the military's health care delivery system and especially appreciates the Committee's rejection of the large fee increases proposed in the DoD budget.

See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/Military-Health-Care>

**May Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**We wish a happy May birthday to: Joe Callahan; Patricia Cathey; Frank Fravil; Darrel Schwalm; Stephnie Coulter and Don Firebaugh.**

**We wish a happy May Anniversary to: Jim & Sue Justis; Paul and Carolyn Amesse and Tom and Dee Todd.**

## ROTC Awards Program



Mary Baldwin College Cadets Mikayla Waters Crittendon, Nhi Thi Nguyen and Jazmine Brooks were presented with MOAA Medals and Certificates by Chapter VP Don Hess on April 22.



JMU cadets Corry L. Cullop, Maxwell C. Titus and Lucas Hammack were presented with MOAA Medals and Certificates by Chapter President Jim Justis on April 27,



Mary Baldwin College band opens the Awards Ceremony at the 20th Anniversary of the Va. Women's institute for Leadership



JMU Cadets present departing Professor of Military Science LTC Rick Showalter, a plaque for his outstanding leadership for the past three years.



## **MAY LUNCHEON INFORMATION**

**Location:** The Club at Ironwood, 62 Country Club Cir., Staunton, 24401, (540) 248-7272.

**Directions:** From I-81, take Exit 225 toward Staunton for 0.5 miles; turn right onto Country Club Dr.; take 2nd right onto Country Club Cir. Club is straight ahead. From US-11, take SR-262 east (toward I-81); turn left onto Country Club Drive and follow as above.

**Date:** **Friday, May 20, 2016** **Time:** Social time at 5:30, Dinner promptly at 6:00 PM  
**Cost:** \$25 per person.

**Reservations:** By noon, Saturday, May 14. You may reserve by email mhaskew@earthlink.net or phone (540-886-4366 and pay on site. Or you may reserve by mailing your check to 217 Kalorama Street, Staunton, VA 24401. but be sure to allow time for it to arrive before the deadline. Make checks payable to CSVC-MOAA. Remember, payment is still due for reservations not cancelled before the deadline..

**Menu: Beef Short Ribs; Mashed Potatoes; Steamed Broccoli; Salad; Rolls Lemon**

**BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT IRONWOOD CLUB AT 2 PM ON MAY 16**

**Central Shenandoah Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
PO Box 2302  
Staunton, VA 24401**