



HOUSTON AREA
PO BOX 1082
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www.moaahoustonarea.com

Newsletter to Members

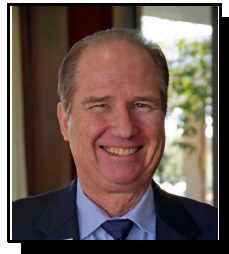
Vol. LIII No. 2

February 2016

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, February 27, 2016 BRAEBURN COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

As we step off into 2016, our never-ending challenge to sustain and advance the security and defense of the USA remains firm. These past years have been turbulent with Congressional budgetary cuts in active, reserve, and retiree programs. As an active chapter of the MOAA, we have our work cut out for us in the year ahead.



Eugene A. Vecera,
LTC USA

We must remain engaged in our activities to be informed and in speaking out for the needs of our military community. Among our goals for 2016 are the following: 1) greater involvement in legislative affairs, 2) recruitment of new members and engaging current members to greater participation by having excellent guest speaker and events, 3) initiating a Veterans Affairs support activity for our members and Veterans in our community, and 4) developing more robust social media outlets, in addition to our newsletter, that will better connect members as well as promote the chapter's place in our Houston community.

Activities for the coming year will include: 1) **Houston Military Ball on May 21**, 2) Retiree Appreciation Day in October, 3) USAA Salute to Veterans lunch in November, and 4) our Holiday Gala in December; among other events to be announced.

To better communicate with each other and with our community, and in addition to our outstanding newsletter edited by our most talented editor Carol Ann Wilson; we have a Facebook page (MOAA-Houston) and a Webpage (moaahoustonarea.com). If you do not have access to a computer, or if you need assistance in using it, please let us know and we'll help.

Thanks for being ready and willing to assist in attaining these goals and having a great year of fun and service—We will hold the Line together!

Respectfully,
LTC Eugene Vecera, USA, President

Officers

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MOAA Houston Area Board Meeting

Tuesday before Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**Tues., Feb. 23
11:30**

**Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner**

2016 Meetings

3/22 4/26 5/24 6/21 7/26
8/22 9/20 10/24 11/15

No mtg in Dec unless called
All members are welcome.

MOAA Houston Area Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

**Saturday Feb. 27
11:30 fellowship
12 Noon Luncheon
BraeBurn Country Club**

8101 Bissonnet St
Houston TX 77074
(713) 774-2586

MENU

House Salad

Pan-seared Salmon
or
Steak Diane

Vegetables, Starch
Rolls, Butter
Coffee, Tea

Pecan Ball

\$30

Reservations by Wed.
2/24 to Jeannette Evans,
281.467.6775 or 495.2202

Remember: BraeBurn
provides **Complimentary
Valet Parking** for our
meetings

2016 MOAA-HA Meetings

3/26 4/30
May 21 is Military Ball
6/25 7/30 8/27 9/24 10/29
11/17 (with MOWA)
12/?? Christmas Party

Military Officers Wives Association

MOWA

**Thursday, Feb. 18
11:30 Fellowship
Luncheon at Noon**

**Rudi Lechner's
2503 S. Gessner**

**Order off the Menu
and Pay Individually**

**RSVP to Bobbye Parsons,
713.541.3143,
by Mon. 2/15, 10 a.m.**

See you there!

MOAA-HA

\$ Treasurer's Report January 31, 2016

Receipts	\$1,150.00
Expenses	\$1,030.61
Balance	\$6,518.81

*Don L. Couch, Treasurer
LTC USA Ret.*

2016 DUES ARE DUE!

Are your dues current through at least 2016? Check your directory to see. The deadline to be included in the 2016 Directory is March 15, and the Directory will be published in April. **Please get your dues paid** so that we can include you in the directory.

Chaplain's Message



Kerry B. Magee,
CAPT USNR-
Ret.

**SHALOM!
PEACE BE
WITH YOU!**

To my warm, kind, and cordial Chapter Friends, I greet you in the name of Almighty God, Yahweh, and Great Jehovah!

Please accept my apologies and forgive me for not being with y'all for our Saturday luncheons during the last few months. God willing, I'll be able to attend in February. Please keep me in your prayers for increased energy and strength; I covet them.

Continuing with my message of kindness in January's issue, this month I want to share with you a portion of His Love Counseling Services of Lake Jackson Buddy Scott's article on same subject.

"Now comes the month of Valentine's Day. February has been designated as a month of 28 Days of Kindness! The global kindness initiative was set in motion to promote awareness of doing good deeds for others. Random acts of kindness are encouraged.

"The Bible says, 'Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted (compassionate, understanding), forgiving another (readily and freely), just as God in Christ also forgave you.' Eph. 4:32. The Bible lists kindness as a sign for IDing people who have within their hearts the Spirit of God:"

When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this

kind of fruit in us: "Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness and Self-control." Gal. 5:22-23. Let's keep producing Kindness!

And, on the 14th, let's all tell the Most Important Person in our lives, "I LOVE YOU, SWEETHEART!"

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

God Bless!

*CAPT Kerry B. Magee
USNR-RET
Chaplain/Past President*

Report on Our January 30 Meeting

We are sorry if you missed our January 30 meeting! We got to know **Randy (MAJ John R.) Elms** and his son **Ryan (Thomas) Elms**. Randy joined in October of 2014 and paid for two years, but this was his first meeting. Commissioned at Texas A&M, active military, the taught Jr. High. Now retired. His son Ryan is also A&M commissioned and now with the 348th Transportation Battn. on Rankin Rd.

A newer member, **MAJ Dan Gutierrez**, gave his military history, as is becoming a tradition at our meetings. He joined in October, and we got to meet him at the USAA Luncheon for Veterans Day.

Our speaker, Dr. Thomas Parr, whose bio appeared in our January newsletter, was dynamic, entertaining, and full of knowledge! (*Cont'd col. 3, this page.*)

Photos From Our January 30 Meeting

Our ever-faithful Andy Parsons was unable to be with us at our January meeting because of two funerals. We hope to have his great photos in our next newsletter!



New Member MAJ Dan Gutierrez, gave a brief history



LtCol Donavon presented certificate to excellent speaker Dr. Thomas Parr



LTC Don Couch presents \$32.50 winnings to Phyllis Ottis (LTC Robert Ottis looks on), and she donated it back!



Barbara and Dr. Thomas Parr

Jan. 30 Meeting Report (cont'd)

Dr. Parr was witty and entertaining, and he drove home several important points about how his military training, especially at West Point, had influenced his career as a surgeon. He is still a practicing surgeon, and **Andy** and **Bobbye Parsons** are among his patients.

Dr. Parr said, "I needed the discipline of West Point." He said that West Point taught him to move, shoot, and communicate, and that if he's not moving somewhere, he's "just killing grass."

He said he learned that "I'm not as important as I think I am and never will be," which is very important for a surgeon to know. He said that the military taught him teamwork, and that even though he retired from the military 30 years ago, he still stays I touch. He stays involved with Camp Hope, which provides help for PTSD sufferers who are suicidal, as 22-30 veterans a day commit suicide.

Dr. Parr started his medical career with a correspondence course. When asked how he went from the infantry to medical school, he quipped: "I got shot in the butt and didn't get a Purple Heart for it!"

Thanks, Dr. Parr for a very interesting, entertaining, and thoughtful speech. We enjoyed meeting you and hearing your story.

Speaker for Feb. 27



James Thompson, the Mayor of Sugar Land, has agreed to speak to us at our February 27 meeting. You can find an excellent article about him in the online *Sugar Land Magazine* at <http://www.sugarlandmagazine.com/articles/2008/fall/mayor%20james%20thompson.pdf>.

From the official Web site: A native Texan, James A. “Jimmy” Thompson graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and was a United States Air Force C-130 pilot from 1970 to 1979.

Thompson was the first resident-elected board member of Fort Bend Municipal Utility District No. 12 and later was appointed to Fort Bend Levee Improvement District No. 2, for which he served 15 years.

Thompson served from 1996 to 2005 on the Sugar Land City Council as a District and At-Large council member and is serving his fourth and

final term as mayor of Sugar Land. He was involved with major mobility improvements; the creation of Town Square; the development of Sugar Land Regional Airport; numerous additions to the city park system; acquisition of the land for the Brazos River Corridor; and the establishment of the University of Houston campus in Sugar Land, Constellation Ball Park.

In 2005, Governor Rick Perry appointed Thompson to the Stephen F. Austin State University Board of Regents. He also serves on the Sugar Land Advisory Council with the University of Houston System and the Local Development Board for Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Healthcare System. Additionally, Thompson previously served on the United States Conference of Mayors committees for Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment, Sports, and Energy.

Thompson and his wife, Gay, have been married since 1970. They have three children: Michael, Tara, and Meredith.

Come on out and hear another great speaker! Thanks to VP Donavon Wallin for this serve to MOAA-HA.

Endowment Fund and Houston Corps of Cadets

Thank you to all who contributed to the Houston Corps of Cadets tax-deductible fund at the University of Houston to benefit the cadets in 2015. We are looking forward to a strong and prosperous 2016 and an even better year for the Fund!

William Taylor
Cpt. USA Ret.



DUES ARE DUE!

Are your dues current?

Check your entry in our 2015 Directory for your “paid through” date.

If you were paid through 2015, your 2016 dues are due now! Please send them in to save us the time and expense of mailing statements.

DUES AMOUNT

Dues: Regular Membership \$30 for the first year; \$30 at annual renewal, but we offer a discount for prepaying future years (\$20 for each additional year pd w/renewal), so if you pay, for example, \$50, you will renew for TWO years at a \$10 discount.

Auxiliary dues (spouse of deceased officer) are \$15 each year, also discounted for payment for future years (\$10 for each additional year pd w/renewal).

See the form on the back page of each newsletter, and send in with your check and your information for our 2016 Membership Directory. If not paid up, you won’t be listed, and you won’t receive a directory.

Please help us out. (And maybe you can get a new member, too?)

DUES ARE DUE!

2016 Chapter Goals

MOAA national presents awards to outstanding chapters, based on a number of factors. One is the percentage of chapter members who are also members of MOAA. Some organizations are multi-level, so that if you join at the chapter level, it includes national dues and membership. That is not the case with MOAA. National is separate from the chapters, and the chapters are separate from national.

MOAA national has a fantastic magazine that comes with MOAA membership, so if you're not getting that, you are probably not a member of MOAA national. Some of our members have their MOAA membership number in our database, and others we do not know about. We need to know that information.

In addition, MOAA national is putting heavy emphasis on life membership, and any of our chapter members who are also MOAA national members, who become lifetime members of MOAA, will earn a special rebate to our chapter. Call President Vecera for details. This will be one of our goals for 2016.

We also earn awards for having a "designated legislative chair." We need to be more active in 2016. President Vecera participated in the Texas Chapter Coordinating Council in San Antonio recently and has good reports from that meeting.

We also want to step up our game when it comes to **social**

networking. That means Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. **MG Joy Stevens** has agreed to man our Facebook page since Matt Mancuso recently had to give it up, and we encourage all members to get a Facebook identity and begin to post items there. You may also send them to Gen. Stevens (joy.stevane@live.com), and she will post them. Send her photos or tidbits about anything you're involved in that will reflect well on our chapter. Facebook is free, so please get involved and help us out.

LinkedIn is thought of as "Facebook for Professionals." We encourage all our members to register at LinkedIn (also free), and search for potential membership recruiting opportunities. Here are the very easy steps to do that, courtesy of President Vecera:

RECRUITING CAN BE FUN !

Social media affords us a vehicle for meeting interesting people and even recruiting them into our MOAA chapter.

Try the step-by-step instructions below for "**LinkedIn**," and you will meet retired, active, and former officers in your area; then you can invite them to our monthly meetings.

1. Go to: www.linkedin.com
2. Sign in to your page (or if this is your first time, you can register for free)
3. At the top right of the home page click on "Advanced."
4. The following criteria will drop down for you to fill in:

"Keywords": (recommend putting "military veteran")

(Skip: First Name, Last Name, Title, Company, School)

5. Open: "Location" (choose "located in or near")
6. Open: "Country" (choose "United States")

7. "Postal Code": Enter your Zip code.

8. Click on "Search."

You will then see a number of military veterans in your area whom you can invite to connect with you by clicking on the "connect" button. When they return the invitation, you can communicate via LinkedIn's email system.

Good Luck and Good Meeting!

LTC "Mac" McConico plans another great year and needs our help. Next issue will feature a list of schools with JROTC programs so we can sign up to visit to present the awards.

MILITARY BALL May 21: We must have a full table of 10. US Army is hosting; Czech Republic is attaché, and Cong. Babin is the speaker.

Can you commit to becoming more involved in 2016?

Can you recruit just one new member in 2016?



**MOAA-Houston Area
THE Premier Military
Officers Group in
Houston**

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA
Houston Corps of Cadets ROTC Endowment Fund–The University of Houston
(Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force)

Please Print Donor name: _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ e-mail _____

My pledge of \$ _____ should be designed to support MOAA,HA Houston Corps of Cadets

My gift will be made with installments of \$ _____ to be paid _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ annually _____.
Beginning date: _____ (The Office of Stewardship will send reminders.)

____ Enclosed is a check (made payable to University of Houston) for the first pledge payable.

Please charge my credit card for the amount of my gift, as scheduled above:

____ Visa ____ Mastercard ____ American Express ____ Discover

Account Number _____ Expiration date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

____ I would like to be contacted about fulfilling my pledge with a gift of appreciated securities.

My pledge payment will be matched by: _____

(Please specify company for our records)

Donor signature: _____ date _____

Donor Signature: _____ date _____

Thank you for your support of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, HOUSTON AREA, HOUSTON CORPS OF CADETS ROTC ENDOWMENT FUND, THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

University of Houston; Advancement Services; P.O. Box 867; Houston TX 77001-0867
Attn: Nancy V. Clark E-mail: uh.edu/giving

**Military Order of
World Wars**

MOWW meets the 4th Thursday of each month for Luncheons at Rudi Lechner's Restaurant, 2503 S. Gessner. Our members are invited to attend.

AD PRICES

Newsletter ad prices: Per-issue prices are \$200 for a full page; \$90 for a half-page, \$50 for a quarter-page ad, and \$20 for a business card size.

Membership directory: \$300 for either inside cover; \$100 for full page inside; \$50 for half page inside; \$25 quarter page inside.

Concerned Veterans for America: You can sign up for their free, very informative and up-to-date newsletter at <http://cv4a.org/email/>.

ATTENTION:

*Your "paid through" date is listed in the directory with your information.
If you are past due, please bring it current so that we may continue to serve you.*

Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area

Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for application for membership, renewal, or changes to the current directory of members.

NAME: _____
(Please print) Last First Initial Grade Service
Branch _____
Spouse's first name: _____ Tel. For Directory _____
Home address: _____

Civilian Occupation: _____
Business Firm _____ Business phone _____
E-mail: _____
Dues: Regular Membership \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30 (\$20 for each add'n'l year pd w/renewal)
Auxiliary (spouse of deceased officer) \$15 (\$10 for each add'n'l year pd w/renewal)
WOULD YOU SERVE ON A COMMITTEE? _____
Comments _____

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA
PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082
For more information, call LTC Rollins Collins 704.213.2334



Newsletters are posted at our Web site:

www.moaahoustonarea.com

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