



Military Officers Association of America

SOUTHERN MARYLAND CHAPTER

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The
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
NEWSLETTER



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January 2014

President's Corner

I want to wish a Happy New Year to all our members. I hope everyone has had a great holiday season. Our Board of Directors met in December to develop plans for chapter programs for the coming year. Although details are still being finalized, we are working on seven general membership meetings for the calendar year, with board meetings during the other months. If we can identify other programs of interest, we can add general meetings. As always, we value input from any of our members to let us know what topics you would like to explore. There will be Board meetings in January & February with general membership meeting in March.

During our December Board meeting, a major topic of discussion was our budget and dues structure. Looking at our income and expenses for 2013, our major expense continues to be the preparation and mailing of our newsletter. Due to the consistently rising costs of printing and postage, we cannot continue to send out the newsletter via U.S. mail to all members without raising annual dues. An analysis of our membership roster indicates that the vast majority of our members have email addresses and could receive their monthly newsletters electronically.

Since January is the month when all of us renew our membership, in addition to sending us your dues and updates on personal information, we ask that you indicate whether or not you would be willing to receive future newsletters

electronically via email. We realize there are some who do not have access to email, and we will continue to mail newsletters to those individuals. If we can make this transition we can keep dues at their current level and free up funds to support other projects. Let's have a great 2014 for the Southern Maryland Chapter.

Warren Prince

Chapter's Digital Presence

Your MOAA chapter board has been hard at work updating the chapter's digital presence. We have a website now at www.somdmooa.org. The site has links to national and state MOAA resources as well as a calendar of events. If you would like access to the members only portion of the site, please send your Google credentials to CDR Phil Campbell at pncbiz@me.com. If you have a Gmail account, you already have credentials. If you do not have a Gmail account, you do not need to create one. Just go to google.com, click 'sign in' in the upper right hand side, and then create an account. Under 'Choose your username', click 'I prefer to use my current email address'.

We'll be adding content over the coming months, including the chapter newsletter. Feel free to provide suggestions to the board on content you would like to see. Remember, the website is there to serve you, the members of the finest five-star MOAA chapter in the nation! If you have any questions, write to CDR Campbell - he can help you.

February Meeting

February's meeting is a board meeting at the Ruddy Duck on 15 February. Members are welcome to attend. Contact Warren Prince or Tony Blankenship for details if you plan to come or if you want to forward along items for the board's consideration.

March Meeting

The first Chapter Meeting is planned for the 15th of March. Details will be published in the February Newsletter.

E-Newsletter

In addition to the hard copy newsletter in your hand, we also send out an electronic version via email. If you are not getting that email version, we may not have a current or correct email on file for you. Please send Tony Blankenship an email at tonyblank@aol.com

and we will update our data base and get you on the email list.

Annual Chapter Dues

Our annual Membership Renewal Campaign is underway. Membership renewal letters will be sent out to those whose memberships expired at the end of 2013. Dues are still only \$15 for Regular Members (active duty, retired and former officers) and \$5 for Auxiliary Members (surviving spouses of deceased officers who would, if still living, be eligible for membership, whether or not the spouse was ever a member). We don't have a "Lifetime" membership program like national MOAA does, but if you would like to pay your dues a year or two in advance, that would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Tony Blankenship at (410) 414-8211 or tonyblank@aol.com.



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