

In this issue:

- President's Message
- Scholarships
- Scholarship Dinner
- Action Center

From National MOAA

- Surviving Spouse Corner: Resources for Surviving Spouses
- TRICARE Pharmacy Reforms: HOW MOAA Is Working to Improve Your Coverage
- Post-Pandemic Economy Offers Hope for Veterans

President's Message



Congratulations to Mark T. Sandvigen, Coastal Carolina MOAA Chapter Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Our Chapter and Mark was the recipient of the following National MOAA Awards: Harris Communications Awards – 2020 / Mark T. Sandvigen

- Print Newsletter – Communication Award – 5 Stars
- Website – Communication Award – 5 Stars

Our Chapter was once again actively involved in awarding MOAA Leadership Medals and Certificates to the cadets who “demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership” amongst their peers at the Eastern Carolina University’s Army and Air Force ROTC programs. Additionally, our Chapter awarded several JROTC MOAA Leadership Medals and Certificates to cadets who “demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership” at our local High Schools: New Bern High School, West Carteret High School and Pamlico High School.

Also, our Chapter Scholarship Committee met on Monday, May 17th and awarded five \$1000 Scholarships to deserving High School and College Students. Special thanks to Gail Bateman for her exceptional efforts in coordinating with the local High Schools and Colleges to ensure students knew of the MOAA Scholarships. More details below.

Reminder – Our Annual Scholarship Dinner – Thursday, June 10 - 1730 Reception, 1815 – Dinner, 1900 – Business Meeting and Recognition to the Scholarship Awardees and their families at the New Bern Country Club, Trent Woods.

Once again, if you know of any local veteran (s) who need assistance, please contact one of our Board members.

Scholarships



It is that time again. Due to this chapter’s ongoing generosity, we once again canvassed, reviewed, and selected deserving graduates for our scholarships. Gail Bateman and team met on May 17th to go through all the applications and select those most deserving of our recognition and help.

Savannah Anderson, Emmanuel Cantley and Madaline Kelly are currently in high school and first-time awardees. We are honored to have repeat awardees attending their respective universities; Mr. James Reeves is a Freshman at Campbell University and Ms. Juliana Magyar is a Freshman at UNC Wilmington.

This year’s awardees, matriculation source, colleges, and their declared majors are:

- Ms. Savannah Anderson — Croatan High School, will be attending Auburn University - Maj. Engineering
- Mr. Emmanuel Cantey — Havelock High School; will be attending NC State University - Maj. Statistics
- Mr. James Reeves — Campbell University; Maj. English
- Ms. Madaline Kelly — Epiphany High School, will be attending Lees-McRae College - Maj. Biology
- Ms. Juliana Magyar — UNC Wilmington; Maj. Nursing

Every year, as a self-funded organization, we make a positive impact in the lives of the next generation. Without your continued generosity, this could not happen, thank you.

Scholarship Dinner



Randy Bogle has completed his search for appropriate scholarship dinner venues. We will be celebrating with this year's recipients and their families at the New Bern County Club, June 10th.

The RSVP form is at the end of newsletter, please fill it out and return to Randy Bogle. These are your gifts and your legacy, please plan to attend.

Action Center – “Continue to Serve”



At the beginning of May, our legislative chair met with the Veteran's Affairs staffers from both Congressional Districts and our two Senators. The conversations were comprehensive. The congressional staffs needed all the information we could provide on Toxic Exposure, Tri-Care for Young Adults, and taking care of our young enlisted who fall 30% below the federal poverty guidelines. While we were to be given 15 minutes, the conversations ran to almost an hour for each meeting. As there are several bills on Capitol Hill addressing the same legislative priorities, disambiguation of the bills and why those MOAA is supporting were important points of understanding for our legislators.

MOAA has published our national priorities for the upcoming legislative year. If our legislators do not hear from their constituents, they must assume we do not care about these bills. Click on the title and see our position, and the changes to the bills. Please show your support by clicking on the [Support Link](#) at the bottom of each description and sending in an email. You can make this more personal by cutting and pasting our positions into your legislator's email and fire them off – their email links are on the [webpage](#). Remember, busy people must be told six times to have the information stick and become something they would advocate for.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Join MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter

By: MOAA Chapters

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is an affinity group whose members share information and ideas with others in a virtual environment. After starting the virtual meetings through quarterly teleconferences, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter now meets monthly through Zoom. Almost 40 states are represented in the membership. This chapter is intended to be an enhancement to, rather than take the place of, geographic chapters, and there are no dues.

Several weeks in advance of each meeting, members receive an email alerting them to the date and time of the gathering; a follow-on email with instructions for joining is sent several days prior to each meeting. The session is kept to an hour and a half and members can log on or off according to their schedule. Topics of discussion and presentations have included Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset updates, financial information, and updates from MOAA national as well as other items of interest.

Members participate to the extent they are able. While the chapter is geared toward surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons, any MOAA spouse is welcome for membership. MOAA's mantra "Never Stop Serving" is espoused to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally. Download a membership application [at this link](#). It can also be obtained by sending a request to mssvc02@gmail.com.

TRICARE Pharmacy Reforms: How MOAA Is Working to Improve Your Coverage

By: Karen Ruedisueli

The TRICARE benefit should protect military families with comprehensive health care coverage. That is why MOAA continues efforts to improve how TRICARE deals with [Tier 4/non-covered](#) drugs. Recently, MOAA has urged the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to re-evaluate Dexilant as a Tier 4 drug and has asked Congress to require an appeals process for drugs excluded from TRICARE coverage.

TRICARE used to cover all Food and Drug Administration-approved medications, placing them in one of three tiers – Generic, Brand Name and Non-Formulary – with varying copays for beneficiaries. Now, drugs the DHA categorizes as "Tier 4/non-covered" are excluded from coverage under TRICARE – they aren't covered at retail pharmacies or through

Coastal Carolina Clarion Newsletter

May 2021 issue



the [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#) program, and they cannot be obtained at military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies.

What is the [origin](#) of this TRICARE pharmacy program change? Congress included a provision in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act allowing the DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, which resides in the DHA, to identify drugs to be excluded from TRICARE coverage. The P&T Committee may recommend, and the DHA director may approve, exclusion of a drug determined to provide very little or no clinical effectiveness.

While DHA has categorized relatively few drugs as Tier 4, MOAA believes there is already one drug – Dexilant – that has been moved to Tier 4 in a way that does not align with congressional intent to limit Tier 4 drugs to those with little to no clinical effectiveness. Dexilant is a proton pump inhibitor indicated for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and the maintenance of healed erosive esophagitis. Approximately 19,000 TRICARE beneficiaries were taking Dexilant when it was moved to non-covered status. Since [Dexilant was moved to Tier 4](#), we have heard from numerous MOAA members and other TRICARE beneficiaries about how this decision has negatively impacted them. Most tried other prescription and non-prescription alternatives that have not worked as well as Dexilant or have left symptoms unchecked.

MOAA research suggests TRICARE's non-coverage of Dexilant is out of step with commercial plans and other government payers. According to Dexilant's manufacturer, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Dexilant is covered by approximately 80% of commercial plans, 70% of Medicare Part D plans, 70% of fee-for-service Medicaid and 45% of managed Medicaid plans. We have provided beneficiary feedback and coverage comparisons to DHA and urged officials to restore Dexilant to the TRICARE formulary. The P&T Committee included a reassessment of Dexilant coverage on its February 2021 [agenda](#); we are waiting to learn the results of that meeting.

Coverage Appeals

Charges for Tier 4/non-covered drugs do not count against the [catastrophic cap](#), exposing TRICARE beneficiaries to unlimited financial risk from non-covered prescription drugs. In addition to pushing for Dexilant to be reinstated to the TRICARE formulary, we have urged Congress to require an appeals process that would allow TRICARE beneficiaries to make the case for coverage of Tier 4 drugs because of medical necessity.

We believe DHA has the authority to implement an appeals process, so legislation may not be necessary. We continue to advance this issue with DHA and the Armed Services Committee staff in both chambers to achieve an appeals process for Tier 4 drugs. At a minimum, TRICARE coverage should align with that of high-quality commercial plans. The extraordinary challenges and sacrifices associated with military service should earn a comprehensive health care benefit. We will continue our efforts to ensure TRICARE beneficiaries are protected from unexpected coverage gaps. MOAA is tracking member communications on Tier 4 and using them to drive advocacy efforts. Are you taking a drug that has been moved to Tier 4/non-covered status? Please share your experience at legis@moaa.org.

Post-Pandemic Economy Offers Hope for Veterans

By: Brian Anderson

According to economists at Goldman Sachs, the U.S. is on course for an employment boom this year once pandemic restrictions ease and the economy reopens.

This new outlook predicts the unemployment rate, currently at 6.2%, will fall to 4.1% by the end of the year, [per a Bloomberg.com report](#). The Goldman Sachs forecasters also expect participation in the jobs market to pick up, because most workers who left the labor force still cite the pandemic as their reason and will likely re-enter once life normalizes. So, you may want to get a jump on additional competition re-entering the work force. Whether you're transitioning to civilian life from the military or a veteran seeking a career change, there are some excellent employment opportunities available to match the leadership, management, and unique skills and abilities honed throughout your military experience.

To help you get started in your job search, Indeed put together [a list of 25 jobs for veterans](#) across a variety of professions and industries, depending on your interests and specializations. MOAA has teamed with Indeed to provide employment advice and resources to MOAA members and the wider uniformed services community via multiple platforms – webinars, [articles at MOAA.org](#), and biggest of all, [MOAA's Job Board](#) where 10 new job postings are listed every second! Be sure to join MOAA and Indeed experts for [a special webinar event](#) on Tuesday, May 11, at 2 p.m. Eastern to learn how to best leverage the advanced features of MOAA's Job Board. You will walk away with best practices to optimize your job

Contact Information: Randall Ramian, CAPT., USN (Ret.), President, Coastal Carolina Chapter | [+1 \(650\) 235-6350](tel:+16502356350) | president@ccmoaa.org

CCMOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan chapter.

Coastal Carolina Clarion Newsletter

May 2021 issue



search in this quickly recovering economy, tips to ensure employers take notice ... and a clear path to landing that position!

Coastal Carolina Clarion Newsletter

May 2021 issue



MOAA Coastal Carolina Chapter



You are cordially invited to our Scholarship Awards Dinner

Thursday, June 10, 2021

New Bern Golf & Country Club

4301 Country Club Road

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 637-4061

Attire: Business

Social Hour (No Host Bar): 1730-1815

Dinner: 1815-1900

Program: 1900-2000

Please Select One per Person:

6oz Pan Seared Beef Tenderloin Filet with Green Peppercorn Sauce

Chicken Picatta with Lemon Caper Sauce

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Cream Sauce

All Meals Include:

Plated House Salad w/Dressings

Dinner Roles

Roasted Redskin Potatoes

Vegetable Medley (Zucchini, Squash and Cauliflower)

Dessert (Chef's Choice)

Cost is \$32.00 per person/Tax & Gratuity Included

Reservations for this event are requested by Sunday, 6 June 2021

Contact Randy Bogle (252) 631-3109/rbogle1968@gmail.com

Cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 10 June.

Name(s) of Members and Guests: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check Enclosed: _____ (\$32/person)

Make check payable to: **CC/MOAA**

Mail To: **Randy Bogle, 4308 Periwinkle Place, New Bern, NC 28562**