



It's been one year since our first "Auxiliary" Newsletter – and time goes by.

A NEW NAME FOR US!

Many may not know that the term “auxiliary members” is now defined as **Surviving Spouses of MOAA**.

We are survivors of former national MOAA members who are deceased or who are the survivors of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for membership. We now have a star logo, which was chosen by the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee.

ON THE MOVE!

We are a small group, and getting smaller, as Peggy DeVivo has moved North. We will miss her and her gift of humor and time. Medical problems plague some of us, but we keep moving. We've got to visit families for graduations, reunions, weddings, and welcoming new grandchildren

Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Surviving Spouses Newsletter

Summer 2016

and great-grandchildren. To all, have a great summer and be safe!

VOLUNTEERISM – Do you ever wonder how many volunteer hours you work during the year? Mark your calendar and total at year-end. Provide to the President of GS MOAA.

MILITARY SURVIVORS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

MOAA needs your help in urging Congressional leaders to find money needed to end unfair financial penalties imposed on thousands of military widows. Please send your legislators the MOAA suggested message found in the June Affiliate.

WHAT IS A "STAND DOWN"?

“Stand Down” is a military term, which refers to troops taking care of exhausted combat troops by removing them from the battlefield to an environment that is safe and secure. The service members are given medical attention, food, fresh clothing, and the opportunity to get

cleaned up, rest, and recuperate.

Today, the term “stand-down” refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation’s thousands of homeless veterans living “combat” life on the streets. They are brought together in a single location and provided access to the community resources needed to begin the process of addressing their individual problems and rebuilding their lives. Each “stand down” is uniquely put together. Last year, many MOAA members assisted in this great effort and look forward to assisting again in September.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

Surviving Spouses will start collections in September/October. This year the ceremony will take place the third Saturday of December (December 17, 2016). We assist the Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina with sponsorship. In 2015, WAA and the network of volunteers laid over 900,000 memorial wreaths at nearly 1100 location in the US and beyond. It was accomplished with help from over 2500 fundraising groups, many corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. The annual pilgrimage from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the

world’s largest veteran’s parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veteran’s homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach. Each wreath costs \$15.00. We buy two and get one free when we submit the money collected from our members. The “pocket change” collection jar will be placed on a table in the lobby of Pine Lakes CC during our dinner/meetings. Please help to honor our military. Locally, the ceremony is held at Florence National Cemetery.

SEND THOSE TEAR-OUT CARDS FROM OUR MOAA MAGAZINE

We are often asked to mail the cards to support a particular issue. “A new report from the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) indicates 80% of staff surveyed said 30 or fewer responses to their social media posts are enough to get the office to “pay attention” and also indicates that the staff tend to review only those reactions posted within the first 24 hours.” The report shows a glimpse at how that process happens. It opens a window into the perceptions and motivations of how social media influences Federal public policy decisions. Link to Report: <http://www.congressfoundation.org/social-congress-2015> .

STORING ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Let the loved ones know: Who is the attorney who prepared the documents; where are the original documents stored? The safe deposit box is not always the best place to store these documents. You can do so if a loved one is authorized for access.

Otherwise, a court order is required, and takes time and money. Try to store them in a safe, easy-to-access location. Make sure you let the trusted ones know location and any required passwords, combination, or key. Store up high, in a fire and water-proof safe.

ANSWERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR DRUG-RELATED QUESTIONS

A pharmacist should be the first resource people use to answer questions about their medications. The Food and Drug Administration's Division of Drug Information staff (855-543-3784) can also answer questions. Do report bad reactions to a medicine, or a medication error, to the FDA. Keep a listing of all prescriptions and over-the-counter meds available for discussion, to prevent drug interactions. TRICARE beneficiaries who get their prescriptions via home delivery can contact a pharmacist 24/7 by calling Express Scripts, Inc., at 877-363-1303.