



OFFICERS CALL



MOAA Excellent Chapter Award:

2001 / 2004 / 2005 / 2006 / 2007 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013 / 2014 /
2015 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018 / 2019 / 2020

MOAA Newsletter Award: 2001/2003/2009/2013

MOAA Recruiting Award: 2001/2002

Volume 22 Issue 2

MAR/APR 2022

NORTH DFW MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 294685, Lewisville, TX 75029-4685

MOAA and the North DFW Chapter are nonpartisan organizations



Meeting Location: 13 April 2022 @ Hilton Garden Inn Lewisville

Please see the Reservation Form p.13 for details

**1800 Camaraderie/Social, Cash Bar 1900 Invocation, Presentation of Colors, &
Pledge of Allegiance
Color Guard TBA**

Program: Dana Bowman from HALO for Freedom Warriors Foundation

Entrées: Marinated Flank Steak with sauce, whipped potatoes, green beans

Seared Herbed Salmon over Bowtie pasta, grilled asparagus with butter sauce

Dessert: Fresh Baked Pie or Crème Brule Iced Tea, Water, and coffee

COST \$35 pp (inclusive)

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE—USO DONATIONS

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PRESIDENT
COL Si Simonson
USA Retired



CHAPTER PRESIDENT REMARKS

Greetings all.

I am glad to announce that, after two years of COVID related issues, we will again be gathering in person for our Chapter Dinner Meeting. We have a great guest speaker lined up, and will have a local JROTC unit present the colors. We have been unable to do this for quite a while and I, for one, am looking forward to getting back to our “normal” dinner meetings. I hope to see many of you there. Details about the dinner meeting are laid out in detail in this newsletter. Due to supply chain shortages, the venue is only able to offer us two dinner choices – but both are good choices. We included a fish choice for those of us who observe Lent.

Gary Howe, Ginger, and I attended the MOAA Texas Council of Chapters (TCC) quarterly meeting on March 4-5. We discussed national and state legislative issues that we wish to address with our elected officials. TCC members will lobby the Texas Senators and Representatives from April 1-30 on three issues that affect active duty members, veterans, and their families. Details are in Ginger’s Legislative column below. If you are interested in helping us talk to one of the ten Representatives from the DFW area, please let me know by March 26. We would love to have you on board.

Finally, I would like to point out an initiative that chapter member Rex King is working on. He is planning to host an event, some Saturday before Memorial Weekend, where some of our members can talk to some high school students about our time in the military. The focus is to inform these high schoolers of the benefits, experiences, and duties of military duty in hopes of trying to persuade some of them to consider a career in the military. If you are interested in participating in this event, please let me know. As more details become available, I will share them with the membership.

Looking forward to seeing you at the April 13 Dinner.

Change of Mission

For Transitioning Officers



Each year, over 200,000 service-members leave the military. Each transition is as unique as each newly minted Veteran who enters their chosen community. Surveys report that most transitioning service-members encounter a wide array of challenges after leaving the military. A study released by the VA on June 3, 2020, mentioned a couple of these challenges that resonated loudly with me and with many of the Veterans/military retirees I interact with—Missing the camaraderie and teamwork that was part of the military culture, and—the difference between military and civilian workforce cultures and norms about expected behaviors.

So, with hopes of addressing those challenges and others, we will publish tips and info in upcoming newsletters. This new column, “Change of Mission” will cover local, state, and federal opportunities for transitioning officers.

For this edition, the spotlight is on MOAA. The MOAA website offers a range of resources for servicemembers seeking to take the next step in their professional life. The guidance includes info on entering the civilian workforce, maximizing GI Bill benefits and has links to helpful articles and webinars. Recent webinars include: MOAA’s Virtual Career Fair, March 2022 Military Executive Transition Seminar, and MOAA Virtual Classroom: The Military-to-Civilian Transition Mindset Workshop.

Some of these resources are available to anyone, while others require MOAA Premium or Life Membership. Here is a link to the free 2022 Transition Guide: Unlocking Federal Jobs:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12FSXsb-7IJgEoLE5nRL0bY29uI6Lu4MV/view?usp=sharing>

You can find the link to the MOAA Transition and Career Center here:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/transition-and-career/>

If you have specific topics that you’d like covered in future “Change of Mission” columns, email TXMOAALeg@gmail.com.



1st Vice President Programs and Support

LtCol Bob Little USAF (RET)

Fellow Members, please mark your calendars for April 13th, when we will again have a real meal together and also have a dynamic speaker, Dana Bowman, giving a talk. Shown below is a short description/pic of Dana.

Please, get your reservations in quickly if you plan to attend.

We do actively seek your input for choosing both venues and speakers for our meetings. Any suggestions for guest speakers/venues would be considered.

I hope many of you can make this meeting as it's been too long since the last one.

Our Founder



Dana Bowman

Dana Bowman has astounded the nation and the world with his drive, determination, and will to succeed. He is a retired Sergeant First Class with the U.S. Army where he was a Special Forces Soldier and a member of the U.S. Army's elite parachute team, the Golden Knights. Dana Bowman is a double amputee. He lost his legs in an accident during the annual Golden Knights training in Yuma, Arizona, in 1994.

[Click Here To Visit Dana Bowmans Website](#)



2nd VP-MEMBERSHIP
Maj Gary Howe

Happy Saint Patrick's Day to All!

I was looking at the breakout of our Chapter's National membership. We currently have 83 Chapter members. All 83 are also members of National MOAA. We all understand the benefits of belonging to MOAA – those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. But are you familiar with the advantages of a premium and life National membership? And the relatively low costs? Here's the Reader's Digest Condensed Book version.

BENEFITS	BASIC	PREMI-UM	LIFE
Legislative News Updates & Advocacy Efforts	Yes	Yes	Yes
MOAA Newsletters	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chapter & Council Membership & Involvement	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exclusive Discounts on Products & Travel	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to Member Books & Guides	No	Yes	Yes
Financial Education & Consumer Advice	No	Yes	Yes
Scholarships, Interest-free Loans & Grants	No	Yes	Yes
Expert Advice on Military Pay & Benefits	No	Yes	Yes
Career Transition Resources	No	Yes	Yes
Subscription to Military Officer Magazine & Exclusive Publications	No	Yes	Yes
Fee Waived Army & Navy Club of Washington, DC	No	No	Yes
Spouse Protection	No	No	Yes

Continued on next page . . .

I've mentioned some of the great publications and other resources in past articles. You may not need some of them now that you're retired, but your kids and grandkids might find them very useful.

The cost? Glad you asked.

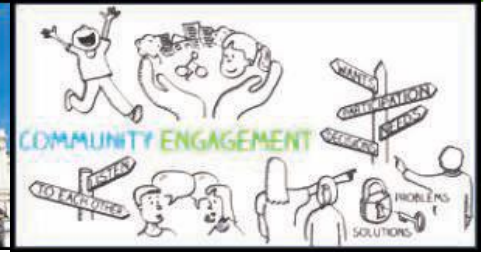
Premium Membership	Life Membership Varies by Age	
One Year - \$59	49 & Under - \$894	75-79 - \$476
Two Years - \$100 (Save 15%)	50-54 - \$852	80-84 - \$370
Three Years - \$132 (Save 25%)	55-59 - \$804	85-89 - \$266
	60-64 - \$740	90-94 - \$171
	65-69 - \$662	95-99 - \$104
	70-74 - \$574	100 and Over - FREE

Just using round figures, a 10-year premium membership would cost you ~\$450-\$590 depending on how you paid for it. Notice that a life membership would cost about the same or less depending on your age but comes with spouse protection – where member benefits transfer to your spouse should anything happen to you.

It's easy to upgrade. Log in on the National MOAA website (moaa.org), then use the **renew/ upgrade** button (at the top right of the main/home page). If you have trouble logging in or would prefer to upgrade without doing so, the best option would be to contact the MOAA National membership team through the call center (1-800-234-6622) or send an email to misc@moaa.org. If you have questions or need additional information, don't hesitate to ask/email/call me.



3rd VICE PRESIDENT — LEGISLATIVE
& Community Activities
LTC Ginger Simonson. USA (Ret)



There is so much to report on, I almost don't know where to start. March is a great time to start preparing for the next Texas State Legislative session which kicks off in January 2023. With the primary elections behind us, with many races already decided, House Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Patrick have already begun to set the stage. On the Texas house side, Speaker Phelan has released the Interim Charges which lays out the research and investigations that he wants each House committee to complete by the end of the year. You can find the full list of Interim Charges at this link:

<https://house.texas.gov/media/pdf/interim-charges-87th.pdf>

These are the Interim Charges he has given for the Committee on Defense & Veterans Affairs:

1. Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's authority and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation.
2. Complete study of assigned charges related to the Texas-Mexico border issued in June 2021.
3. Examine programs and funding streams connected to services that improve mental health outcomes for servicemen and women suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
4. Evaluate the needs of veterans and their families as they return to civilian life, including access to employment, education, housing, counseling, and mental health services. Make recommendations to ensure coordination between state agencies to create a positive environment for veterans transitioning back into communities across the state.

The House speaker also authorized the creation of the House Interim Study Committee on Criminal Justice Reform and the House Select Committee on Health Care Reform to dedicate extra attention to the policies that influence outcomes in the state's criminal justice and health care systems.

On the Senate side, the Lt. Governor has not yet released his Interim Charges but took some significant action by splitting the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security in two, creating the Senate Committee on Border Security and the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs. Border Security is his top priority, so he has already chosen prominent Military Veterans

Sen. Brian Birdwell to serve as Chair, and Sens. Bob Hall and Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa as members.

The MOAA Council of Texas Chapters has also begun preparation for the next state legislative session. We met in Waco earlier this month to lay out a strategy and began discussing our top advocacy priorities. I will be sending out a short survey asking you to prioritize what you think we should focus our legislative advocacy for the next year.

If you’d like to see my presentation to the MOAA Council of Texas Chapters, you can access and download it at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Tr5POoiPkxdCAHUE5uy9f0RL31TycN4/view?usp=sharing>



What’s Up in Congress

The action on the Federal legislative side has been just as busy as that in Texas. After signing the National Defense Authorization Act on Dec 27, President Joe Biden also signed the Omnibus Federal Spending bill which funds all programs, including Defense and Veterans Affairs that were previously authorized.

MOAA National released the focus areas and dates for the 2022 Advocacy in Action Campaign. MOAA’s annual advocacy event brings members from across the nation in contact with their lawmakers to address critical topics on MOAA’s legislative agenda.

This year’s advocacy topics:

Support the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers): Two bills ([H.R. 1282](#) in the House and [S. 344](#) in the Senate) are designed to mitigate the impacts to over 50,000 combat-injured service members who were not able to serve their full 20 years due to those injuries. Passage of this bill will also impact current and future members who may face the same fate of early retirements due to combat injuries.

Reduce TRICARE Mental Health Copayments: This bill, as laid out in [H.R. 4824](#) will benefit our currently serving families on TRICARE Select and our working-age retirees and their families. It would bring co-payments for mental health care in line with copays for primary care. Currently, mental health care is considered “specialty care,” with copays (in some cases) more than double that of primary care.

Enact a 4.6% Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA): This goal addresses currently serving and their families (pay and benefits) and is significantly important to those who are about to retire. We will encourage Congress to include this raise in the FY 2023 NDAA which will be sent by President Biden later this year.

During “Advocacy in Action,” MOAA Chapter members across Texas will meet virtually or in person with each and every Federal Legislator and advocate for their support for the three issues listed above. I will be sending you “Take Action” emails during the month of April so you can help bombard Congress with our priorities, so they will not be easily ignored.



Surviving Spouse Liaison
Debby Allbach

The Surviving Spouses virtual chapter is a no cost MOAA chapter. One purpose of the chapter is to provide information. This month I learned a brand-new Quick Reference PDFs for the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination and the SBP 2023 Optional Dependent Annuity Reversion became available on line and can be downloaded. This is news you can use.

DFAS has special focus webpages for both of these initiatives with detailed explanations and FAQs, as well as articles in their Survivor SBP Newsletter and Retiree Newsletter.

The Quick Reference guides are also now available to download from DFAS special focus webpages:

SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination News:

<https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicnews>

SBP 2023 Optional Dependent Annuity Elimination/Reversion to Surviving Spouses:

<https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev>

The Chapter meets every month via Zoon or toll free telephone on the 3rd Tuesday, alternating between the traditional business meeting at 1200 noon central time on “odd” months (i.e., November, January etc.) and a social gathering/open forum at 4 pm central time on “even months (i.e. December, February etc.). This virtual chapter is a great source of fellowship and information aimed specifically to welfare of military families. If interested in joining please contact Micki Costello: mssvc02@gmail.com

April 13th, 2022
Dinner Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn



June 8, 2022
Dinner Meeting
TBD

September 14, 2022
Dinner Meeting
TBD

November 9, 2022
Dinner Meeting
TBD



Treasurer
Maj Dave Nelson, USAF Retired



Treasurer's Report

Again Greetings from the Finance Department,

I look forward to seeing you all again at the April Dinner Meeting. I must believe you are as anxious as I am to get back to in-person meetings. Hope you can make it. If you can please make your dinner choices and send your reservation and check as soon as you can. We only have just over a week to receive the reservations and order the food. Thank you.

During our March board meeting, we held our drawing to choose who will receive the free 2023 membership. With much fanfare and a half-hearted drum roll, I placed my hand into one of my old squadron mugs holding the slips of paper with all members who paid their 2022 dues before the end of 2021. The lucky winner is Vince Land. Congratulations Vince.

I reported to the board our bank balances for the normal scholarship fund, the Dick Cook Memorial scholarship fund and the operating fund balance. There have been several members pay their 2022 dues during February and thank you to those who chose to do so. If you haven't please drop your \$25 dues check in the mail today. If you would like to be entered in the drawing for free dues in 2024, just add \$20 to your check. You get a discount on next year's dues and a chance to get the following year's dues waived. In these inflationary times, this is a great opportunity. Take it from me, your treasurer...

If you would like a new or replacement nametag just fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and I will order it for you. I have challenge coins in stock too. The coins make great tokens to give your ex-military friends who may not be in the MOAA yet. A little gift and gentle nudge might increase our membership numbers. Where else would \$10 deliver such a meaningful, thoughtful and service-minded gift? OK, OK, enough already....

As always, if any of our members would like to know more about the financial health of the chapter, please let me know. See you next month.

That is all,

Dave



CHAPLAIN
COL Paul Vicalvi, USA (RET)



A Word from the Chaplain (Chaplain (COL) Paul Vicalvi, USA, Retired

These certainly are troubled times. Wars and rumors of wars coming in the wake of pandemics. A divided culture where people can say all sorts of nasty things to people they have never met. Wow! Is the world falling apart?

In the Christian tradition this is the Lenten season which began with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a period of 40 days prior to Easter when Christians are encouraged to examine their faith and relationship with the Lord, their Creator as they prepare to celebrate the amazing sacrifice that took place on Good Friday and the Miracle that shook the foundations of the world on Easter Sunday. Life is indeed uncertain and a living relationship with our Creator should certainly give us hope, a hope that we are not alone in our lives. That there is a purpose, a higher purpose to which we are called even when it seems like things are falling apart all around us. It causes us to pause from our worries, from the burdens of life to ask ourselves what is most important in life. In a fractured culture it calls us to pray along with St. Francis, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace". It lifts us outside of ourselves to see a world so very much in need of love, of light and eternal life, and in sharing ourselves, we find eternal hope.

We don't know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future. Count on it! Have a blessed Lenten season.

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We'll be There.**

★




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PERMANENT NAME BADGES ARE AVAILABLE




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 MILITARY OFFICERS
 ASSOCIATION
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JONES**





**MARY
JONES**



FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

VERSION (CIRCLE ONE)
 MEMBER
 SPOUSE/GUEST
 ATTACHMENT (CIRCLE ONE)
 CLUTCH (\$10)
 PIN (\$10)
 MAGNETIC (\$13)

FIRST NAME _____

T NAME _____

VERSION (CIRCLE ONE)
 MEMBER
 SPOUSE/GUEST
 ATTACHMENT (CIRCLE ONE)
 CLUTCH (\$10)
 PIN (\$10)
 MAGNETIC (\$13)

RESERVATION FORM -- By Friday 8 APR 2022

MAIL TO: North DFW Military Officers Association,
P.O. Box 294685 Lewisville, TX 75029-4685

FOR EMERGENCIES & LAST MINUTE :

E-MAIL TO: davenelson@tx.rr.com

CALL: Dave Nelson, Maj, USAF (Ret), 972-740-8449

Wednesday 13 APR 2022
Hilton Garden Inn, Lewisville
785 TX HWY 121 Lewisville, TX 75067

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Plated Dinner Service **CASH BAR**

Price \$35/pp (inclusive) ———

MENU Classic Mixed Green Salad: Lettuce, Julienne Jicama & Carrots, Cilantro Grape tomatoes
With choice of Creamy Ranch or White Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

Entrées:

Marinated Flank Steak with whipped horseradish potatoes and garlic green beans.....# Guests _____

Oven Roasted Salmon over Bowtie Pasta with Asparagus, Capers & Chive Butter Sauce # Guests _____

Iced Tea, Water, and Coffee (on request)

Dessert: Fresh Baked Apple Pie or cream Brulé

TOTAL GUEST _____ Times \$35 TOTAL \$ _____

RESERVATION With Payment By Friday 8 APR 2022

CANCELLATION With Refund by 1700 hours Sunday 10 APR 2022.

Reservations may be made by Email, however, if you make a reservation and fail to cancel by Sunday APR 10 2022 prior to the meeting, you will be charged the full amount.

RESERVATIONS: _____ COST \$ _____ CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____

SUPPORT the CHAPTER SERVICE PROJECTS

SUPPORT the USO DFW — Bring items such as single-serve snacks, books and travel-sized toiletries,
OR DONATE \$ _____ AND WE'LL BUY AND DONATE FOR YOU.

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE” FORM

IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH US ON 13 APR 2022

but WANT TO SUPPORT our SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,

DONATE TO THE RAFFLE for a CHANCE TO WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES !!!

MAIL TO: North DFW Military Officers Association, P.O. Box 294685 Lewisville, TX 75029-4685

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE DONATION: \$ _____ (\$1 PER TICKET/ 11 FOR \$10/ **23 FOR \$20**)

BEST DEAL 🍷



North DFW Military Officers Association
Elected Officers and
Committee/Project Leaders



ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — COL Si Simonson USAR (Ret), 817-683-2874, si.simonson@verizon.net

1st VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS & SUPPORT — LtCol Bob Little USAFR (Ret), 972-355-8355,
heedlock@gmail.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP — MAJ Gary Howe, USAF (Ret), 210-473-5961,
gphowe64@mac.com

3rd VICE PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES — LTC Ginger Simonson USA (Ret), 817-683-2870
vgws56@gmail.com

SECRETARY — LTC Doug Allbach, USA (Ret), 817-788-2652, dallbach@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER — MAJ Dave Nelson, USAF (Ret), 972-740-8449, davenelson@tx.rr.com

PAST PRESIDENT — CW2 Doug Brown USAR (Ret), 214-755-1153, douglasabrown@verizon.net

APPOINTED COMMITTEE/PROJECT LEADERS

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP — LTC Rich Crossley Jr., USA (Ret), & Gail Crossley, 972-355-7015,
Richard.Crossley@FWISD.org

USO DFW SUPPORT — MAJ Norma Cabanas, USAR, 214-916-8528, norma3j@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY MILITARY ADVISOR/COORDINATOR — CW2 Doug Brown, USAR (Ret), 214-755-1153,
douglasabrown@verizon.net

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIASION — Debby Allbach, 817-788-2652, dallbach@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLISHER — CW4 David Kerbow, USA (Ret), 214-435-4952
david.kerbow@gmail.com

PERSONAL AFFAIRS — LTC Ginger Simonson, USA (Ret), 817-683-2870 vgws56@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN — COL Paul Vicalvi, USA (Ret), 803-414-3718, pvicalvi@aol.com

HISTORIAN— CW2 Doug Brown, USAR (Ret), 214-755-1153, douglasbrown@verizon.net

Bruce Thompson
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Cell: 214-415-8305
 1901 Long Prairie Rd Ste 220-132
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North DFW Military Officers Association

2022 Membership Application/Renewal

Mail application to:

North DFW Military Officers Association
P. O. Box 294685, Lewisville, Texas 75029-4685

Treasurer—davenelson@tx.rr.com



Bill To:
Name:
Address:
Phone:- _____ Cell or Home
E-Mail

Description	Amount
2022 North DFW MOAA Chapter Membership Dues North DFW MOAA Chapter Membership dues are separate from and in addition to National MOAA Dues. Pay 2022 Dues: \$25	
Chapter Coins: How Many ____ @\$10/ea	
Voluntary Scholarship Contribution Contributions go toward our annual scholarships awarded each May. Contributions to the scholarship fund are tax deductible. Please make a copy of this invoice and retain it as proof of payment for your records.	
Check #	Total Amount Enclosed

Make Checks Payable to: North DFW MOAA

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 Affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) 350,000 Members — **“One Powerful Voice”**
 MOAA is a nonpartisan information services association and advocate for active and retired families .