

The Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

# MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

WINTER 2009

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2009

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

**Cash bar opens at 1100 hours. Buffet Luncheon begins at 12 noon.**  
*The menu includes Roast Beef with Mushroom Au Jus, Fillet of Sole, and the works. The cost for the General Membership Meeting is \$18.50 per person. Slight cost increase due to increased food costs.*

### GUEST SPEAKER

**Mr. Michael Reich, Program Director for ABCCM Veteran's Restoration Quarters, a facility serving more than 200 veterans.**

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THE BACK PAGE AND SEND IN ASAP**

### WNCMOAA, Inc. President's Remarks

**By LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret**

Happy New Year! Once again we have jumped into a New Year and your Board of Directors sincerely hopes that all have had a happy Holiday and are looking forward to a healthy and prosperous new year.

### ATTACK ON TRICARE FOR LIFE CONTINUES

We have a new President, a new Congress and almost all new cabinet members with new ideas, so the world has changed. One thing that has not changed is the recommendations of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concerning our health care program, TRICARE For Life (TFL). Once again they are proposing, under Option 96 of their Budget Options document, that the cost sharing expenses to those covered by this program be greatly increased. Excerpts from the key paragraph in the CBO document follow: (continued on page 2)

(President's Remarks, continued from page 1)

"In 2008, DoD spent about \$8 billion on TFL-eligible beneficiaries in addition to the amounts spent for those individuals by Medicare. This option would help reduce the cost of TFL, as well as cost for Medicare, by introducing minimum out-of-pocket requirements for beneficiaries. Under this option, TFL would not cover any of the first \$525 of an enrollee's cost sharing liabilities for the calendar year 2011 and would limit coverage to 50 percent of the next \$4,725 in Medicare cost sharing that the beneficiary incurred. (Because all further cost sharing would be covered by TFL, enrollees could not pay more than \$2,888 in cost sharing in that year. Those dollar limits would be indexed to growth in average Medicare cost for later years.)...Currently, military treatment facilities (MTF) do not charge eligible individuals co-payments for medical services or pharmaceuticals. In order to reduce beneficiaries' incentive to switch to MTFs and avoid the minimum out-of-pocket requirements that are central to this option, DoD would need to establish procedures for collecting payments from TFL beneficiaries seeking care from MTFs."

See the full document at the following web site: <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=9925>

#### **MOAA RESPONSE**

MOAA has not yet mounted an offensive against this proposal as recommendations of this nature have been coming out of the CBO for the past several years. MOAA prefers to wait to see what is presented in the President's Budget, which is expected by March 2009. It is my understanding that The Retired Enlisted Association has already begun activity to prevent this violation of promises made to all who gave the majority of their adult life in uniform to the service of this Nation.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The WNCMOAA, Inc. Board of Directors meeting was held on 13 January 2009. We owe thanks to Paul Sutherland for hosting the meeting at Tryon Estates. The major items coming from the meeting were approval of a contribution of \$1000.00 to "Honor Air" to help allow our World War 11 veterans the opportunity to view their memorial in Washington, D.C. and also the authority to buy the necessary computer software to publish our newsletter. The establishment of a Nominating Committee for the next election of chapter officers and members of the Board of Directors was discussed and names of members to serve were recommended. By the time you receive this newsletter they will have been contacted and their much-needed assistance requested. If there are any others who wish to serve please contact me at 828-890-8438. If there are those willing to serve on the Board of Directors please feel free to volunteer! November will be upon us before we know it!

#### **THANKS TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS**

We owe our thanks to COL Don Jackman, USA-Ret, for volunteering to serve as our Second Vice President. Don has already "jumped into the breach" and has sent our Scholarship Letters to all of the Junior ROTC units in our area. We also thank MAJ Ron Botsford, USAF-Ret, for his past services in that position. Unfortunately Ron is unable to continue his service in that capacity.

Perhaps the most challenging position that has been filled is that of newsletter editor. We are grateful to COL Spence Campbell, USA-Ret, for stepping forward to assist. I know from my limited computer knowledge ( my computer sends me the following message when I turn it (continued on page 3)

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