



HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

(Visit our Web Site at www.moaahoa.org)

Number 6

June 2014

No June Meeting -- Next Meeting July 26th

Missourians to Vote August 5th on Lottery Ticket to aid Veterans

Missourians will have five constitutional amendments to decide in the August 5th primary, including one that has lottery ticket revenue going to veterans.

The question is should Missouri have a lottery ticket that has all of its revenue specifically go to helping fund the Missouri Veterans Commission?

That's a question Missouri voters will face August 5th on the ballot, thanks to the passing of House Joint Resolution 48 during the state's recent legislative session.

Right now, the Missouri Lottery is used to help fund the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, but the proposed constitutional amendment would make veterans also receive some funds from a separate lottery ticket.

Sheila Solon (R-Blue Springs) was the House sponsor of the legislation that got the measure on the ballot.

"This lottery will help fund our state's seven veterans' homes," she said.

"Right now, we have 1,350 veterans in the homes, and the waiting list—which averages nine months—is up to 1,800. The lottery funds will go to capital improvements and covering shortfalls. Our veterans need this."



Solon said she does not have a set dollar figure she hopes the lottery will raise, but other nearby states have raised millions with veterans' lotteries. For example, Iowa averages \$2-3 million annually, Kansas is in the same ballpark, and Illinois has raised \$10 million, she said.

"I think a veterans' lottery would start a whole new customer base," she said. "I think it would reinvigorate the entire lottery. My husband is a veteran, and he has talked to other veterans who would want to buy these tickets. I don't currently buy lottery tickets, but I would buy these. "In Missouri, we support our veterans."

During Missouri House and Senate committee hearings, Solon said no one spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

2014 Meeting Calendar

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 26 July* | 25 October |
| 23 August | 22 November* |
| 27 September* | 12 December (Holiday Party) |

NOTE: All Meetings are on the 4th Saturday EXCEPT as indicated. They vary according to a holiday or available date.

*(Exec Council meets at 10:30 am)

If you would like to receive e-mail updates from the Chapter, and you currently do not, please send your name and e-mail address to robinson1@kc.rr.com.

Web Site: www.moaahoa.org

We Want You to Vote August 5
For HJR 48 the Lottery Ticket Bill

Notes from the President



by Maj Jerry Magliano

Revision of the Chapter By-Laws has been completed in draft form. The last revision was in 2010. A copy of the draft will be emailed and print copies will also be available at the July, 2014 luncheon meeting. We encourage you to read the draft and to give us feedback about its content.

While we will not be meeting in June, the July 26th and August 23rd meetings promise to be very informative. Our July meeting will feature Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders. I'm sure those of you who live in Jackson County will be interested in what he has to say about the state of the county.

At our August Picnic meeting, we will have Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler. Given the current state of affairs in Washington, you will no doubt have many questions for her.

We have been working hard to achieve a balanced budget for this year and due to the efforts of Jim Davis and Vic Christianson, it appears we will reach that goal. A balanced budget means not having to dip into our reserves. A full accounting of the Chapter finances will be provided at the July meeting.

There is no more important annual goal than retaining existing members and recruiting new ones. While we have a membership subcommittee consisting of Keith Pechak and Terry Buller, there is only so much they can do. As I have stated before, we must all think of ourselves as recruiters. If you know someone who qualifies for membership but has not joined, think about inviting them to one of our meetings. I am sure they will enjoy the camaraderie as well as our speakers.

On June 28th, I will be accompanied by six other members for a visit to the Kansas City Veterans Hospital. This visit will be especially important this year given the scandalous conduct of some administrators in the VA system which may have caused the deaths of hundreds, if not thousands, of patients nationally by placing them on fraudulent waiting lists to cover up the excessive wait times to get in to see a doctor. This is a national disgrace that demands that those responsible be held accountable. Make sure your Congressional Representative knows your feelings about this issue and demand to know what is being done about it.

I hope you are enjoying the Summer weather and recreational opportunities it brings. Stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on July 26th.

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Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnists and are not necessarily those of the Heart of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

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