



HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

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

Number 1

January 2019

Chris Kuehl to cover Security Issues and the Economy at January 26th Meeting

We again start the New Year with our favorite speaker -- DR. CHRIS KUEHL. If you have not heard him, don't miss the opportunity NOW.

Chris will cover Security Issues for our country and then get into the Economy and how it affects us.

Chris Kuehl is managing director of Armada Corporate Intelligence, a firm that provides a wide variety of international consulting services for companies interested in the global marketplace and is one of the best informed analyst in the Kansas City area and was previously Political Science Professor at Baker University.



Dr. Chris Kuehl

Armada Corporate Intelligence, the local company Chris co-founded, conducts detailed analysis and assessment of their clients' business environments and competition. Their client list includes YRC Worldwide (formerly Yellow Roadway), Hallmark International, Spencer Fane Britt and Browne, U.S. Engineering, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Brotherhood Bank, and the World Trade Center.

He has a office in Latvia and frequently represents the United States State Department and several Fortune 500 Corporations in their efforts to establish businesses in foreign countries. There will be time for questions after his

presentation.

Our Meeting will be held January 26, 2019 (4th Saturday) at the new DAV (Disabled American Veterans) building at 14605 East Hwy 40, Kansas City, MO 64136. The Auxiliary Luncheon begins at 1145 hours with the MOAA Luncheon beginning at 1215 hours. Cost of the lunch is \$12.00.

To get to the DAV from Independence, Missouri, exit off I-70 onto Noland to go south for 1 mile to E Hwy 40. Turn left and drive one-half mile. DAV is on the south side of E Hwy 40.

Everyone must have a meal reservation by Monday of the week before the luncheon. Substitute meals must be made at time of reservation.

Cancellations must be called in by 9:00 a.m. Saturday of the luncheon.

To make reservations, contact Samuel or Judy Leonard by telephone at 816-792-0744 or by e-mail at jlynn2@kc.rr.com by Monday before the meeting.

2019 Meeting Calendar

26 January*	No July Meeting
23 February	24 August*
23 March *	28 September
27 April	19 October* (3rd Sat)
13 May * (3rd Sat)	16 November* (3rd Sat)
22 June (Chapter Picnic)	7 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)

Web Site: www.moaahoa.org/

Meeting Information

TOPIC: *Security Issues and Economy*

SPEAKER: *Chris Kuehl, Managing Director
Armada Corporate Intelligence*

Saturday, January 26, 2019

TIME: *10:30 a.m. - Executive Board Meeting
11:30 a.m. - Auxiliary
12:15 p.m. - MOAA*

MENU: *Salisbury Steak, Vegetable, Salad,
Mashed Potatoes/Mushroom Gravy,
Roll/Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Iced Tea*

*(Substitute Meals of Baked Chicken Breast or
Hamburger Steak must be requested at Time of
Reservation)*

LOCATION:
*Disabled American Veterans
14605 East Highway 40
Kansas City, Missouri 64136*

*Call Sam and Judy Leonard at 816-792-0744 for
Reservations or e-mail jlynn2@kc.rr.com*

Notes from the President



by Jerry Magliano

Heart of America Chapter Military Officers Association of America



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.

2019 Heart of America Chapter Officers

POSITION	RANK	OFFICER	HOME
President	Maj	Jerry Magliano	913-530-1761
1st Vice President	LTC	Grant Montgomery	816-832-1733
2nd Vice President	COL	Mike Neer	913-908-6621
Recording Secy	COL	Bud Frye	913-685-4171
Membership Secy	MAJ	Keith Pechak	913-915-2131
Treasurer	Maj	Victor Christianson	816-240-8315
Immed Past President	COL	G. Bruce Eveland	609-238-6141
Auxiliary President	Mrs.	Diane Christianson	816-240-8315

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Chaplain VACANT

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS):

Finance	Col	Garey Reeves	816-524-5571
Legislative	Maj	Bill Tudor	816-365-6148
Membership	Maj	Gary J. Fox	816-525-3592
Program	Capt	Don Dawson	816-741-4027
Scholarship	Maj	Victor Christianson	816-240-8315
Newsletter Editor	LTC	Leslie C. Hobbs	816-830-5309

Unlike many veteran's organizations, National MOAA and Local Chapters collect yearly dues independently. Chapter Dues are due in January and are currently \$20. The Auxiliary Dues are \$5. If there is an "*" after your last name in the address bar, we have not received your dues for the current year. Please send your Dues payment to TREASURER, Vic Christianson, 10635 Hwy D, Napoleon Mo 64074. Thank you for continued support!

Hoping you all had a Happy Holiday and wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year. The year ended with a wonderful Holiday Party at which Santa once again made an appearance, and we were treated to wonderful entertainment by the Morton sisters and a delicious meal was served.

We were also honored to be joined by three of the four families we were able to help with our Military Family Initiative grant.

A special thanks to Terrie Jo Fox and the ladies of the Auxiliary for making this such a special event.

Thanks also to the six officers who were installed to guide the Chapter in the accomplishment of our mission during 2019.

During our January Executive Council meeting, we will discuss our goals for 2019. At the top of our list will be increasing membership. I have stated in the past that we should all think of ourselves as recruiters. If you know any active duty or retired officers, invite them to one of our luncheons so they can see what we are all about.

Our favorite speaker, Dr. Chris Kuehl, will be presenting his assessment of the world and national economies and markets at our luncheon on January 26th. We will be inviting other military service organizations in the area to attend as well.

At the end of December, you should have received a letter requesting you consider a donation to our Scholarship program. This is one of our most important service projects and gives us an opportunity to help our future leaders with their schooling. We will be working with the various JROTC instructors in the area to identify the most deserving students.

As always, your comments and suggestions about how we can become a better Chapter are very welcome. With your participation, we look forward to a great year.

Auxiliary News Happy New Year

My wish for each of you to have a wonderful New Year.

I want to also begin with thanking you for allowing me to be your President for another year. I look forward to this year and contributing as much as I can.

Thanks to everyone for each job that you have done in helping me.

Erica Van Dyne is our hostess for January and I remind you to come join us at the January 26 meeting. I look forward to seeing you and encourage any of our new wives to come. Come join us.

Diane Christianson
Auxiliary President
MOAA-HOAC

VA Medical Center Staffing Still Seems to Be Lagging

“The big issues have not been addressed,” says head of watchdog group

by Joyce Frieden, News Editor, MedPage December 27, 2018

At a House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee hearing in June, representatives were told of continued staffing issues at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and with high-level positions at the VA.

WASHINGTON — Oh, what a difference 6 months makes — or not. Back in June, the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee held a hearing to discuss staffing problems at medical centers run by the VA. Witness Max Stier, president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, testified that recruiting medical center directors was difficult because “You’re paying medical center directors less than individual physicians in a marketplace where those folks can make four, five, or six times that amount” in the private sector, he said. “[If you] change that... those folks are going to figure out a lot of answers [to the VA’s problems].” High turnover is another problem, he added. “Over the past 6 years, the VA has seen nearly one-third of its personnel leave.” In addition, the agency had vacancies at the very top, noted Rep. Julia Brownley (D-Calif.), the subcommittee’s ranking member. “It’s been 16 months since the VA had a permanent undersecretary of health, and no less than nine deputy undersecretary and assistant deputy undersecretary positions are without permanent appointees,” she said. Since that hearing, not much appears to have happened, Stier said in a phone interview. “It’s certainly the case that the big issues have not been addressed. The medical directors — the 160-to-170 people that are, in my view, the fundamental group in making the health side work right — they are capped out at the pay level that general senior executives across the government can make, despite the fact that they can make up to five times as much in the private sector. My argument is that we ought to have a more market-sensitive system; it may not pay as much as

the private sector, but we have to have some reasonable relationship to get the best class of talent willing to stay for a period of time. That has to be fixed.” Part of the problem with staffing at the VA “is that the human resources (HR) function is overwhelmed and there’s a very high turnover there,” he continued. “One way to make it much better is to create a single [HR] system for the VA, rather than the three that operate today.” Each one of the three systems — which includes a general one for government employees, another one just for medical personnel, and a third one that’s a combination of both — “any one of them is overly complicated, but to have three complicated systems is a nightmare.” In the partnership’s most recent ranking of best places to work within the federal government, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) tied with three other government sub-agencies to come in at 199th out of 415 slots. Rankings were determined by surveying employees and asking them how satisfied they were with their job and with their organization, and whether they would recommend their organization as a good place to work. The full House Veterans’ Affairs Committee has heard a little bit of good news, according to a committee spokesperson. “The most recent information we got about a week or so ago shows the [VHA] is doing better than the industry standard as far as hires and losses and onboarding goes,” she said. “As far as onboarding FTEs, [full-time employees], the VHA has increased in the past year, so the most recent number for fiscal year 2018 is 329,515 [employees], and in 2017 it was 318,320. And from 2013, that’s steadily increased.”

December Holiday Party Photos



The Morton Sisters performing at the MOAA Christmas Party.



Mr. and Mrs. Gary Fox stand with Santa at the Christmas tree



Heart of America Chapter (HOAC)

Chapter and Auxiliary Membership Application or Renewal

Date: _____ Is this Renewal or Application Request: _____

Name: _____ Primary Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Chapter Dues are \$20/Yr

Auxiliary Dues are \$5/Yr

Checks payable to: HOAC/MOAA

Mail to: Treasurer HOAC-MOAA
 10635 Hwy D
 Napoleon, MO 64074