



# The OWRC Briefing Board

The Newsletter of the Ohio Western Reserve Chapter, An affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America

December 2024 | Volume 24 Issue 8 | OWRC.net and MOAA.org

For questions contact the Chapter President and Webmaster at [andy@andrewemanuele.com](mailto:andy@andrewemanuele.com)



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- End-of-Year TRICARE articles from MOAA

From National MOAA

- [MOAA Leads Effort to Address Military Spouse Employment Challenges in Federal Workforce](#)
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## December 2024 President's Notes

Hello Everyone,

The year 2024 is coming to an end, which means 2025 is about to start with everything new to look forward to. We had a great ending to this year with the Doughboy Meal and the Christmas party. The Doughboy Meal netted the Chapter \$95, and the Christmas Party was well attended.

This will be my last President's Note. The Chapter is still alive and flourishing, and we are looking forward to 2025 with new faces and more energy.

If you missed the Christmas Party, here are the new officers:



***The new OWRC Executive Committee members:*** (from l to r): President William Maki, Maj, USAF, Ret, 1 Yr Trustee, John Chapman, CPO, USN, Ret 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Tom Luczynski. BG, USA, Ret, 2 Yr Trustee Andy Emanuele, LTC, USA, Ret, 2d Vice President, James McClellan Col, USAF, Ret, 3 Yr Trustee, Tom Harden, LtCol, USAF, Ret, and Treasurer, Mrs. Lisa Rivedal. Surviving Spouse



The new Executive Committee is sworn in by MG Dan Hahn, USA, Ret



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President	William Maki, Maj, USAF, Ret
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Tom Luczynski. BG, USA, Ret
2d Vice President	James McClellan Col, USAF, Ret
Secretary	John Anderson, LTC, USA, Ret
Treasurer	Mrs. Lisa Rivedal. Surviving Spouse
1 Yr Trustee	John Chapman, CPO, USN, Ret
2 Yr Trustee	Andy Emanuele, LTC, USA, Ret
3 Yr Trustee	Tom Harden, LtCol, USAF, Ret
Roster and Data Manger	Ron Smetana, LTC, USA, Ret
Personal Affairs	Dick Calta, Col, USAF, Ret

Your new President, Maj Bill Maki, will be letting you know about the January Membership Meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 13 January 2025. Here are some 2025 planned dates. These dates are tentative and subject to change.

ROTC/JROTC Recognition Dinner Guy's Party Center	24 April 2025
Summer Picnic Ann & Andy Emanuele's House	Saturday, 12 July 2025
Annual Steak, Chicken and Corn Roast Tadmor Shrine Picnic Area	Saturday, 12 July, 2025
Annual Business Meeting	Thursday, 16 October 2025
Chapter Elections and Doughboy Meal	Wednesday, 12 November 2025
Christmas Party and Officer Installation	Friday, 5 December 2025

I want to thank everyone for their help over the past two years. I have had a professionally and personally rewarding experience.

I wish all of you a Happy, Fun, and Safe Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Andy Emanuele  
Chapter President (Past)



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The OWRC Christmas Party and Officer Installation ceremony was held Friday, 6 December 2024, at the Galaxy Restaurant in Wadsworth, OH. We had a good turnout and a lot of fun, as you can see from these photos.



Pres Bill Maki, 1VP Tom Luczynski, and Brenda Alderson set up those pesky flags.



Everyone arriving and ready for a great time.





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We were entertained by the Manchester High Choir, led by Kathy Ilg. Duane Carlson also returned on the piano for background music and Christmas Carols.



*l to r:* Larry and Jackie Ashbaugh, Dick and Linda Calta, and Carol Hahn



Our incoming President, Bill Maki, gets his new President's Pin from outgoing President Andy Emanuele.



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*l to r:* James McClellan, Tom Luczynski, Brenda Alseron, Charles and Carol Auker, Karen and Eugene Calvin, Bill and Patricia Bamler, Janet Oglesby, and Lisa Rivedal.

And of course, there were more members meeting and greeting and moving around and staying ahead of the camera.

Attending but not pictured are: Ann Emanuele, Virginia Maki, John Martin, Bart and Dianne Oldenburg, Dave and Jean Riegler, Dan and Shiela O'Connell, and Tom and Kathy Harnden.

We missed John Anderson, Jennifer Syme, and Harlan and Dodie Jewett. They had planned to attend but were unable.



And Bob Senn was making sure we did it right!

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## End-of-Year TRICARE articles from MOAA

Two end-of-year articles from MOAA address information about your TRICARE for Life Benefits. One is in the MOAA December Newsletter . You find this at [MOAA - Your TRICARE Benefit Will Change in the New Year: Here's What to Know](#) and it is titled [Your TRICARE Benefit Will Change in the New Year: Here's What to Know](#).

The second is on the MOAA website at <https://moaa.org> and is titled **TRICARE Patients Fear Losing Preferred Health Care Providers Amid Contract Transition**.



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## Annual Meeting Recap: MOAA President Outlines People-Focused Efforts to Strengthen the Association

By: Jen Goodale

MOAA, in collaboration with leading military family support organizations, has urged the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) to prioritize a pressing issue affecting military families: the retention of military spouses employed by the federal government.

In a joint Nov. 18 letter to SASC Chairman Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), the committee's ranking member, the organizations called on the committee to adopt Section 1113 of the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision seeks to address the unique employment challenges military spouses face, particularly those in the federal workforce.

### [\[READ THE LETTER\]](#)

#### Military Spouse Employment: A Critical Issue

Military spouse unemployment remains at 21%, more than three times the national average. Frequent relocations due to PCS moves disrupt careers, often forcing spouses to leave federal employment. These disruptions undermine financial stability and intensify the economic challenges faced by military families.

"Military families face immense pressure from childcare shortages and inadequate housing to the added burden of high unemployment and underemployment rates of military spouses. In many cases, a dual income is vital ... to achieve financial stability," the letter states.

"Section 1113 provides a commonsense, cost-neutral solution that benefits both military families and the Department of Defense by ensuring military spouses can continue contributing to their family's financial security and military readiness."

#### Provision Breakdown

Section 1113 introduces flexible measures to improve job retention for federally employed military spouses:

1. **Remote Work Flexibility:** Federal agencies would evaluate positions for remote work potential, enabling military spouses to continue their roles despite PCS moves.
2. **Reassignment and Alternative Worksites:** Agencies could offer equivalent positions at new duty locations or alternative worksites, minimizing disruptions to careers.
3. **Leave Without Pay (LWOP):** For those unable to work remotely or relocate within the agency, LWOP would ensure continued employment status and retention of non-financial benefits such as security clearances. This provision would align with the duration of PCS orders, easing workforce reentry when opportunities arise.

#### The Federal Government's Role

Private employers, including Amazon, Starbucks, and Boeing, already have implemented initiatives to support military spouse employment inspired by the [READINESS Act](#) framework, which serves as the basis of Section 1113.

However, the federal government has lagged in offering comparable accommodations, a significant oversight given its position as the nation's largest employer, and an executive order calling on the government to be the "[employer of choice](#)" for military dependents.



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Federal agencies "should be setting be the gold standard for supporting military spouse employment," the letter states. "For many spouses stationed overseas, the federal government is often the only viable employer."

## A Win for Military Readiness and Retention

MOAA emphasizes the broader implications of military spouse employment for military readiness and retention. Financial instability caused by lost spousal income can hinder a servicemember's ability to focus on their mission, placing unnecessary strain on families.

By enabling military spouses to retain employment, Section 1113 would ease financial burdens, improve the quality of life for military families, and strengthen overall force readiness.

As MOAA and its partners push for the inclusion of Section 1113 in the NDAA, the message to lawmakers is clear: Retaining military spouses in the federal workforce is not just a benefit for families; it is a strategic imperative for the nation's defense.

With the NDAA under deliberation, military families are hopeful this critical provision will garner the support it needs to become law. Use MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to ask your senators to support efforts to retain federally employed military spouses.

## Army, Navy Surveys Will Help Identify Needs for Military Families

By: Kevin Lilley

Two ongoing surveys will allow Army and Navy servicemembers and families to weigh in on programs critical to the readiness and morale of the all-volunteer force.

Why take part? MOAA and other advocacy groups use data from these and similar surveys to set legislative agendas, determining which focus areas will make the most difference for the wider uniformed services community. Only by identifying chokepoints, faulty programs, or areas of concern across the services can MOAA succeed in its efforts to improve quality of life for all in uniform, regardless of rank or branch.

Beyond the surveys, servicemembers and dependents can use the new [DoD Housing Feedback System](#) to address more direct housing concerns, such as submitting new maintenance orders, beginning the dispute resolution process on existing orders, and finding contact information for landlords/property managers, housing offices, or other DoD resources.

Some details about the ongoing surveys, including eligibility and open dates:

### Navy Military Personnel Housing Survey

**What:** Survey-takers will be asked about their current housing (type, costs, etc.), how they make housing-related decisions, and how family concerns affect housing needs.

**Why:** Results will inform Housing Requirements Market Analyses (HRMAs), which are used to determine housing allotments on or near installations. Learn more about the importance of those reports – and some issues with DoD's timeliness in their completion – [at this link](#).

**Details:** Survey results are confidential. The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes and is open through Dec. 20. [Click this link](#) to learn more and to take the survey – have your Unit Identification Code (UIC) ready.

### Army MWR Survey





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**What:** The Customer Needs Survey from Army Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (Army FMWR) is open to servicemembers assigned to Army installations or support activities (regardless of branch) and their family members, along with any other eligible Army MWR participants. It covers the full range of MWR offerings, to include child care, dining, gyms, and more.

**Why:** "We'll use it to improve existing programs and develop new ones that better serve our customers – and create a more fulfilling Family and MWR experience for everyone," Josh Gwinn, director of Family and MWR programs, said in a [news release announcing the survey](#).

**Why Else:** Survey-takers will be entered to win a five-night trip to any [Armed Forces Recreation Center Resort](#).

**Details:** The survey is confidential and takes about 10 minutes. It closes in January. [Click here](#) for details, to take the survey, and to enter the trip sweepstakes. Email [amy.m.leon.naf@army.mil](mailto:amy.m.leon.naf@army.mil) with questions.

Do you have concerns about housing or family readiness issues that aren't covered by your survey, or do you fall outside the survey pools? MOAA is always seeking feedback from currently serving members and their families to ensure DoD programs are working as intended and quality of life challenges are addressed. Email [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org) to reach us.





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## **OWRC Purpose and Mission Statement**

Support the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; promote camaraderie among the officers (retired, active and former) within the OWRC region and relationships with other veteran organizations; and support projects for those pursuing military service (ROTC programs) and assisting veterans (wounded, jobless and homeless).

## **Legislative Contacts:**

**MOAA Legislative Update** [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/legislative-action-center) .

**President Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D)** The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500 Switchboard: 202-456-1414 [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**Senator Sherrod Brown (D)** U.S. Senate 713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2315 [www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)

**Senator James D. (J.D.) Vance (R)** U.S. Senate B40-C Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone:(202)224-3353 [www.vance.senate.gov](http://www.vance.senate.gov) or 240 East 9th Street, Room 3061 Cleveland, OH 44199 [Share Your Opinion - J.D. Vance \(senate.gov\)](https://www.senate.gov/legislative/jd-vance)

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## OWRC 2025 Executive Board

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