



Newsletter



MAY 2017

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PROSPECTIVE

The next meeting will be **11:30 AM Tuesday, May 23rd**, in the Dogwood Bar upstairs at **Indian Hills CC**, \$20.00 per plate.

Dine at noon on:

Buffet with two meat entrees, salad, sides and dessert.

RESERVATIONS /CANCELLATIONS are required by 11 am Friday.
Call **Jeff Brown** at **205-464-8238** or e-mail **jbrown@tuscco.com**

Representative Bill Poole, on what's up in the Legislature in Montgomery and Tuscaloosa County issues.

CARE & CONCERN

George Hodgson reports: " MAJ Jeff Brown has been moved to room 460 DCH. I had a wonderful visit with he and his wife Billie this morning (*May 1st*). There has been "miracle" in his physical condition. He is now able to talk! He has a great attitude and is Praising The Lord for his improvement. When I asked Billie for a specific prayer request she told me Jeff is not able to swallow food. So we need to continue to pray for them and pray specifically that Jeff will be able to swallow food. If you could have a short visit with Jeff, I know he would like to see each of you."

In His Service, George Hodgson, 205-394-6195

COMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

- May 23rd – Representative Bill Poole
- June and July – No Board Meetings and No Luncheons., and no Newsletter
- August 1st – Board Meeting 1130 at IHCC
- August 22nd – Late afternoon meeting at Robertson's Barn in Fosters, program is Chief A. J. Martin of the Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service.
- September 5th – Board Meeting 1130 at IHCC
- September 26th – TBA
- October 3rd – Board Meeting 1130 at IHCC

RETROSPECTIVE

On Tuesday, April 25th, thirty one members and guests met for our luncheon meeting at IHCC. **Dennis Stanert** and **Charlie Beck** were guests.

President **David Hartin** opened the program and passed speaker introduction duty to **Lee Allen Hallman**, who introduced Judge **Hardy McCollum**, County Executive for Tuscaloosa County, who began by noting his National Guard service with three activations while at the University and military service after graduation.



He went on to describe his complex job starting with Chairman of the County Commission, Judge of the Probate Court, commitments for the mentally ill, and a multitude of other administrative duties. He has spent 24 years building infrastructure and paying off debt, and leaves the County one of a very few debt free counties in the country. He is in his last term in office due to age seventy retirement requirements.

He helped create the Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission. This provides the County a vehicle to add funding and expedite priority essential road projects such as 69N and S, and other such projects around the town and county. Coming next is I59 widening all the way to the Malisham Parkway exit. Major intersection work coming at McFarland and 69S at Skyland.

The secret to incentivising economic growth is to incentivize industrial development, which will generate the jobs and infrastructure, which will create the supporting commercial growth. The auto industry is the engine which drives our economy, and Mercedes suppliers continue to move to Tuscaloosa. County revenue dropped by \$10 million with the shut down of the coal industry, but the reorganization of Walter Industries is starting up the mining of our top quality coal again.

The law should be enforced, and if you don't like the law, change it.

The County is doing some deficit spending from reserves.

Representative Bill Poole is highly respected in Montgomery.

The cash draw was won by **Dave Darden**.

Please notify **Ken Cheek** or **Jeff Brown's** office of members who are sick or other C&C.

2017 DUES ARE DUE !!

If you haven't done it yet..., it's the time of year again for our calendar year membership renewal. Please Send your check along with the **renewal form below** to the address indicated. Or pay our treasurer, MAJ **Jeff Brown**, at the luncheon meeting. *Thank you very much !!*

WEST ALABAMA OFFICERS ASSOCIATION	
CY 2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	Date _____
Regular Member: _____ \$25	Name _____
<i>OR</i>	
Auxiliary Member: _____ \$10	Address _____
<i>Make check / money order</i>	_____
<i>payable to:</i> WAOA	e-mail _____
P. O. Box 20361	
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402-0361	
Please return this slip with payment	\$ Enclosed _____ Pays thru _____

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

Compiled by CDR Robin Moore, SC, USN, RET. from MOAA news e-mails and other sources.

Key Think Tanks Weigh In On Personnel Reform -- May 5, 2017

- Top Two key national security think tanks in Washington, D.C., are starting a conversation with Congress regarding reforming and modernizing military personnel and compensation systems in DoD. The main players are the Task Force on Defense Personnel at the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) and the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). These two organizations have teamed up to produce reports and, in the case of the BPC, have testified recently before the Senate Armed Services Committee and its Subcommittee on Personnel (SASC-P) regarding their push for major defense personnel reforms.
- In testimony this week before the SASC-P, the cochairs of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Task Force on Defense Personnel stressed key areas of reform from its March report, Building a F.A.S.T. Force: A Flexible Personnel System for a Modern Military.
- The "reformers" are looking to change the current system in the areas of military pay and compensation, promotion, and education, as well as other important areas of support for the modern military force, such as child care.
- One BPC Task Force cochair, former Sen. Jim Talent (R-Mo.), who served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated, "This system does work for certain core functions, and that's why it has lasted so long." But Talent also stressed, "You have to be careful in any changes you make so that you don't do harm to the system in areas where it is working well."
- CNAS stresses many of the same points in its report, AVF 4.0: The Future of the All-Volunteer Force. The other BPC Task Force cochair, Kathy Roth-Douquet, president and CEO of Blue Star Families, pointed out many of today's personnel policies were put in place at the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War – entirely different situations than what military servicemembers and their families face today.
- Both think tanks are pushing for reform legislation as early as next year's defense authorization bill, but it was clear from the hearing that members of Congress prefer to move slowly and with caution in the area of defense personnel reform. It appears legislators want to take any further potential personnel reform slow after the recent major review of military compensation, health care, and retirement in the congressionally mandated Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), completed in January of 2015.
- The MCRMC recommended changes in areas such as retirement, which resulted in legislation to change the retirement system, but found, for example, that the overall structure of the current Regular Military Compensation (RMC) system was sound and did not require sweeping overhaul, as envisioned by the reformers at BPC and CNAS.
- MOAA would like to know what you think. Send a message to legis@moaa.org and tell us if you think the military personnel system needs major reforms to adapt to today's servicemembers, their families, and the current and future national security environment?

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/Key-Think-Tanks-Weigh-In-On-Personnel-Reform.aspx#sthash.DjDaHU5K.dpuf>

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LEGISLATIVE NOTES

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DoD Admits It Needs A Culture Change -- May 5, 2017

–DoD released this week its FY 2016 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. The following day, the House Armed Services Committee's (HASC's) Military Personnel Subcommittee held a hearing on “Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies.”

–DoD reported that while the prevalence of sexual assault in the military decreased last year, it is still at an unacceptably high rate of 14,900 reported assaults. Twelve percent of service academy students report being sexually assaulted, and approximately 50 percent report being sexually harassed during their time at the academies.

–MOAA was present for DoD press briefings and the HASC hearing. A consistent theme emerged: DoD must change the culture in the military to one of dignity and respect if it is to combat sexual harassment and assault. During the HASC hearing, Rep. Niki Tsongas (D–Mass.) stated it is clear military culture has yet to fully embrace gender diversity. Rep. Martha McSally (R–Ariz.), an alumna of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., compared service academy culture to Lord of the Flies, the novel by William Golding.

–DoD stated it is “advancing a military culture where sexist behaviors, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored.” Rep. Susan Davis (D–Calif.) noted “whoever is in leadership sets the tone” and questioned how to make military leaders set the right command climate to prevent sexual assault and harassment.

–Congress will be seeking to address this issue through legislation and continuing oversight. What are your thoughts? Share them with MOAA at legis@moaa.org

– See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/DoD-Admits-It-Needs-A-Culture-Change.aspx#sthash.RwRrRN6K.dpuf>

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