



**The Santa Fe Trail Scout  
Santa Fe Trail Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America**  
*Serving the Military Community of Leavenworth County and Vicinity*

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Chapter Newsletter Number 2006-4

September 2006

**CHAPTER PRESIDENT CORNER:**

It is a pleasure to announce that our chapter has again been awarded MOAA's 5-Star chapter rating. Thanks to the Board of Directors, volunteers and chapter members for your support of the Santa Fe Trail Chapter. This is our third consecutive year as a 4 or 5 star chapter. Five Star is MOAA's highest award.

Two significant events will take place between now and the end of the year. Monetary awards to local agencies/groups will be decided at the Oct BOD, and chapter officer elections will take place at the November dinner meeting.

At the 19 Sep dinner meeting I will provide the following list to members for consideration of a monetary award: Leavenworth Main Street; the City of Lansing; High School JROTC; Disabled American Vets; the CGSC Foundation; Army Community Service. If members wish to add other agencies for consideration, we will accept them at the 19 Sep dinner and vote on them at the 26 Oct BOD meeting. We have hundreds to give away not thousands, but our dues have accumulated to the point where the BOD agreed that we could be supportive of our communities with a monetary contribution while maintaining a prudent reserve for chapter operations.

Every two years our chapter elects new officers. A nominating committee is being formed with members who are not currently serving as chapter officers. They will provide a list of open positions at the 19 September meeting. We will solicit nominees and then hold an election at our 21 November meeting. If anyone would like to volunteer for an officer position, let us know between 19 September and our November elections.

Respectfully, Rich Keller, Chapter President

## MOAA Santa Fe Trail Chapter Calendar for 2006 (as of 1 September 2006)

19 Sep 06: Chapter Dinner, 1800, Leavenworth Country Club. Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. Phil Dyer, MOAA National.

26 Oct 06: BOD Luncheon, 1130, Village Square

21 Nov 06: Chapter Dinner, 1800, Elections/awards/2006 Wrap Up/2007 Plans

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Santa Fe Trail Chapter, MOAA, meets for dinner on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at the Leavenworth Country Club, 455 W. Eisenhower Road, Lansing. Hospitality begins at 6:00 PM; dinner at 7:00 PM. Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Phil Dyer, CFP and MOAA National Deputy Director of Benefits Information

Please make your reservations with menu choices and check payments to Treasurer Stan Johnson, 1101 Holman, Leavenworth, KS 66048, by not later than 15 September 2006.

**If you have not paid your dues for 2006 please add \$15.00.**

Menu (1): Filet Mignon - \$22.00; Menu (2): Garlic Chicken - \$19.00. For all: Tomato Bisque, Wild Rice Pilaf, Vegetable Terrine, Mediterranean Cole Slaw and Chocolate Raspberry Crème Brule. Prices include gratuity. Drinks: Coffee, Ice Tea.

We value your presence. Robert Atkins, Chapter Secretary

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### Tricare Information

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) has learned that beginning 1 October 2006 TRICARE will no longer reimburse TRICARE for Life (TFL) claims from beneficiaries who use providers that have opted out of Medicare. An opt-out Medicare provider is one who notifies Medicare that they are no longer seeking Medicare payment for their patients and cannot submit claims. TFL members are urged to check whether their provider accepts Medicare.

TRICARE is warning members not to share their personal or financial information with anyone who approaches them, claiming that they are collecting fees or other funds on behalf of TRICARE or selling TRICARE-related products. TMA says members should only give information when they have made contact with TRICARE themselves. If you suspect that someone is misusing your personal information, contact the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338 to file a report. There are also tips and a list of resources to help you protect your identity on the [TRICARE Website](#).

TRICARE ALLOWABLE CHARGES: President Bush signed an Executive Order on 22 AUG titled "Promoting Quality and Efficient Health Care in Federal Government Administered and Sponsored Health Care Programs," directing federal agencies that administer health care programs to take steps to promote quality care. It also states that agencies must do these three things: create incentives for beneficiaries to care about the quality and price of their health programs; address interoperability of health information technology products; and make health information more transparent to consumers. To support this and other health initiatives in the President's Management Agenda, the Department of Defense has initiated several activities intended to realize the promise of improved and more efficient health care for all beneficiaries of the Military Health System (MHS).

In one initiative, Tricare is partnering with industry, current health managers and providers, who contract with DoD in developing robust measures of quality health care that can be consistently applied by the MHS as a unified effort. These ongoing "data quality summits" are developing a core set of metrics that will enable both MHS leaders and beneficiaries in making sound decisions about health choices. In another initiative, the MHS is actively engaged in strategic partnerships with both the public and private sectors to advance health care information science and to promote and define standards for health information technology systems interoperability. DoD has made significant progress advancing health care information technology through large-scale adoption and deployment of AHLTA which is nearing full implementation.

In still another initiative to promote transparency of health care pricing and quality, TRICARE has posted its allowable charges on an easy-to-use site at [www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges). The cost of medical care varies widely across the country. Neither hospitals nor doctors' offices typically post their charges for various procedures, making it hard for patients to judge if they are being charged a reasonable amount for operations or examinations. By making its charges easily available to the public, Tricare is leveling the playing field between medical service providers and users. The new Web site shows the Tricare maximum allowable charge tables, listing the most frequently used procedures - more than 300 of them - and the amount Tricare is legally allowed to pay for them. These charges are tied to Medicare allowable charges, effectively making them a federal standard for health care costs. [Source: DoD News Release 22 Aug 06]

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**SANTA FE TRAIL CHAPTER  
THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

**Mail to: LTC Stanley Johnson, 1101 Holman, Leavenworth, KS 66048**

- Enroll Me as a New Regular Member
- Enroll Me as a New Auxiliary Member

- Address or Information change **ONLY**
- Dues payment & Information Update

**Please print or type \* Dues \$15.00 per year**

Last Name	First Name	Middle	Grade	Name of Spouse
Street Address		Apt. #	Phone Number	
City	State	Zip + 4	SSN/Service Number	
<b><u>PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES:</u></b>			<b>STATUS</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>
Member of National MOAA?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Active Officer	<input type="radio"/> Army
If YES, your card number, please: _____			<input type="radio"/> Retired Officer	<input type="radio"/> Navy
Spouse's Grade (If Widow(er)): _____			<input type="radio"/> Former Officer	<input type="radio"/> Air Force
			<input type="radio"/> Widow(er)	<input type="radio"/> Marine Corps
			<input type="radio"/> Coast Guard	
Your Birthdate: _____			<input type="radio"/> Male	<input type="radio"/> NOAA
			<input type="radio"/> Female	<input type="radio"/> Pub Health Service
Active Duty: from _____ to _____				
Signature: _____			Date: _____	
E-Mail Address: _____ (if applicable)				

\* Initial dues Jan thru Apr - \$15.00; May through Aug - \$10.00; Sep through Dec - \$5.00