



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

## Military Officers Association of America



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Web Site: [mtcmooa.org](http://mtcmooa.org)

January 2010

Editors: Gus and Doug

### MOAA Monthly Luncheon

**Organizational Meeting**  
January 26, 2010  
11:30 AM

**Old Natchez Country Club**  
115 Gardengate Dr  
Franklin TN 37069

Our organizational meeting will focus on the election of a new member to our Board (COL Bill Bacon), our current membership level, our financial status and the increase in our dues.

We will also have an opportunity to receive an update on the programs in which we participate on an ongoing basis (Junior ROTC Awards, the Gold Bar Program, our Annual ROTC Picnic) and the programs that we have assisted as their needs became known (Wounded Warrior Program through the All Academy ROTC Banquet and the Honor Flight Program).

Then, as has become our custom we will solicit program ideas from the membership for the upcoming program year.

Our last item of business will be to discuss our meeting schedule based on our attendance in 2009.

We hope to have your participation at this meeting!

#### Weather Policy

Given our recent weather it seems that this would be a good time to remind everyone of our policy concerning meetings during adverse weather.

**Scheduled meetings will be postponed if the Davidson or Williamson County schools are closed due to adverse weather.**

If the school openings are delayed by only a couple of hours we will make every effort to meet.

### Officers

(Board Contact Number 615-415-6816)

#### President

COL Doug Minton

#### 1st Vice President

CAPT Dana McLendon

#### Secretary

LCDR Gus Gustafson

#### Treasurer

CAPT Dale Lewelling

#### Past President

CDR John Ohlinger

#### Directors

BG Jeremiah Brophy

LTC Wanda Graham

1st Lt John Manley

CAPT Dana McLendon

CAPT Charles Stewart

COL Bill Bacon

#### Auxiliary Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

### 2010 Dues

Our membership year runs from January through December, which means that dues for 2010 are due now. We will included a self-addressed envelope with the December newsletter for use in submitting your dues; but if you discarded the envelope with all of the Christmas debris you may remit your dues to:

**Middle TN Chapter, MOAA**  
**P. O. Box 50252**  
**Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

Your dues status will be indicated by the year your dues are paid through; if it shows "Dues Paid Through January 2010" then its time to locate the check-book. Dues are \$20.00 for regular members, and \$5.00 for Auxiliary members.

### Newsletter via Email

To date we have heard from 106 of 148 members with email concerning receiving the newsletter via email.

If you would like to receive it in this manner, and have not already responded please send your address to [info@mtcmooa.org](mailto:info@mtcmooa.org). today.

### MTC Board Notes

Your Board did not meet in December; however we did recently learn that the USN will commission the **USS William P. Lawrence (DDG-110)** an *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer in Pascagoula, Mississippi on April 17, 2010.

Vice Admiral **William Porter Lawrence** (1/13/30 – 12/2/05) was a native of Nashville, who distinguished himself as a student athlete at Nashville's West High School, and in 1947 turned down a scholarship at Yale University to attend the United States Naval Academy.

During the Vietnam War, Lawrence was shot down while on a combat mission and spent six years as a prisoner of war, from 1967-1973. During this time he became noted for his resistance to his captors. He served from 1978-1981 as Superintendent of the Naval Academy. Lawrence was a noted test pilot who became the first Naval Aviator to fly twice the speed of sound in a naval aircraft and was also one of the final candidates for the Mercury space program.

Admiral Lawrence's parents and grandparents were from Tennessee. His father attended Vanderbilt University and graduated in 1924 and was a noted scholar-athlete there. Lawrence himself always had a close connection with Vanderbilt Univ. His daughter Dr. Laurie Lawrence attended Vanderbilt and is a physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His other daughter CAPT Wendy B. Lawrence, USN, graduated with the USNA Class of 1981 and became a Naval Aviator and astronaut.

As we learn more about how you can participate in this ceremony we will pass the information along.

Doug Minton, President, MTC

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## Upcoming MTC Programs

January 26, 2010  
**Annual Chapter Organizational Meeting**

February 23, 2010  
**Annual Personal Affairs Presentation**

March 23, 2010  
**To Be Determined following our January Meeting.**

### Keeping up with TRICARE Changes

TRICARE beneficiaries can make staying current on their health benefits easy by signing up for e-mail updates and having the latest TRICARE news and health information delivered straight to their e-mail inbox.

Subscribers can customize their account by choosing to receive as many or as few items as they like based on their beneficiary category or topics of interest. Subscribers can even decide when they would like to receive their e-mails. Facing an already-crowded inbox? Choose daily, weekly, or monthly digests instead of immediate notifications.

Creating an account is easy and secure. After entering their e-mail address at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions), beneficiaries can choose their beneficiary category and topics that appeal to them. After that they'll receive the latest TRICARE news releases, benefit changes, podcasts, healthy lifestyle tips and pharmacy updates from TRICARE Communications.

## Legislative News

### Medicare Part B Inequity Strikes

The Senate failed to act in time on legislation to prevent all Medicare beneficiaries from seeing a Part B premium increases this year.

As a result nearly 25% of Medicare beneficiaries are now subject to increased Part B premiums (and a net reduction in their Social Security checks) this month. In years like 2010 when there's no Social Security COLA, current law protects most Medicare beneficiaries from premium increases. This "hold harmless" provision covers nearly 75% of Medicare beneficiaries who will maintain their 2009 Part B premiums of \$96.40 per month.

The other 25% of Medicare-eligible's will see a significant increase in their premiums. Those affected by the Part B premium increase include:

- new eligible's who will turn 65 in 2010
- Medicare beneficiaries who don't yet receive Social Security benefits and pay Part B premiums directly to Medicare
- some Medicare-eligible's who also qualify for Medicaid
- beneficiaries with 2008 adjusted gross incomes greater than \$85,000 (\$170,000 for married couples)

Even though overall inflation was negative for FY2009, medical costs actually rose, and that's what drives Part B premiums, which are supposed to reflect 25% of Medicare's cost of delivering care. But when the premium for 75% of beneficiaries is frozen, the cost increase must be borne entirely by the remaining 25% (about 11 million beneficiaries).

So the basic Part B premium for beneficiaries not protected by the "hold harmless" provision will be \$110.50 a month in 2010 - a \$14.10 increase. Premiums for higher-income people with a modified adjusted gross income of more than \$85,000 (for those filing an individual return) or \$170,000 (married couples filing jointly) will rise even more depending on the size of their incomes.

MOAA believes all Medicare-eligible's should have their premiums frozen in years with no Social Security COLA, and the House already passed legislation (H.R. 3631) to do that. But the Senate has to pass it to make it happen. **Please contact your Senators urging them to pass this important legislation immediately.**