

## GENERAL INFORMATION

MOAA's virtual AiA 2022 event will kick off on Friday, April 1st and conclude on Friday, April 29th.

In preparation for this year's event, please review the below information and attached State Captain Checklist.

- There will be opportunities for Council AiA Team Leaders to get a head start in mid-March.
- Members of Congress will be in their home states/districts for a two-week work period during the month of April from: Monday, April 11th to Friday, April 22nd.
- AiA teams are encouraged to schedule in person meetings in their home states if they are able and it is safe to do so.

## AiA CAMPAIGN TOPICS

1. Military Pay Raise at 4.6% per the Employment Cost Index (ECI)  
MOAA supports the full pay raise for all and will guard against any reductions to fund pay-table overhauls.

2. The Richard Star Act  
This bill would end an unjust offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured retirees who were unable to complete 20 years of service due to their combat injuries. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. Two different payments for two different purposes. To reduce retired pay because of a disability is an injustice.

3. The Stop Copay Overpay Act  
This bill would reduce mental health copays that were more than doubled through military health system reforms. Mental health is increasingly important and getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children's well-being. This issue impacts currently serving families on TRICARE Select, working age retirees and their families.

MOAA will provide more information, including issue papers, on our three topics in the coming weeks as we prepare to engage with Congress on these important issues.

## TEAM INFORMATION

### TEAM CREATION:

Establishing your team(s) early is an important part of a successful advocacy campaign.

- Establish as many teams as necessary to contact all of the offices in your state.
- We recommend 2-3 people per team.

NOTE: MOAA HQ may assign a MOAA HQ Staff member, Board of Directors member, or an Advisory Council member to each AiA team, depending on availability. Experience has shown pairing state leadership constituents with Board members or a MOAA National Staff/Committee Adviser offers an important "force multiplier" effect. Team assignments will be made the first week of March and an official teams list will be sent out and available on the private webpage by Friday, March 11th, 2022.

## FOR ACTION:

Presidents, please provide the following information to MOAA at [chapters@moaa.org](mailto:chapters@moaa.org) by February 28th, 2022:

- Identify one leader from your state who will serve as the 'State Captain.' Typically, the council (or independent chapter) president or legislative chair/liaison, this is the person with overall responsibility for ensuring contact is made with every member of congress from your state.
- Identify your teams and team members.

Include the following information for the state captain and each team member:

- First and Last Name
- Rank and Service
- Email Address (It is important that the email address you provide matches the email that the participant uses to log in to the MOAA website)

## PREPARATION AND TRAINING

With your team(s) confirmed, you can assist with educating them by directing your team members to the MOAA website. Encourage them to stay current on the latest issues by checking their newsletter subscription preferences for their account. While all the information MOAA sends is valuable, The MOAA Newsletter is essential to stay current on every legislative effort MOAA is watching.

## LEADER ROUNDTABLE:

Council and Chapter leaders are invited to join us on Thursday, February 24th at 7pm (EST) for our monthly Leaders Roundtable Series where we will share information and invite discussion on MOAA Advocacy and our new advocacy platform Quorum.

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

## PARTICIPANT TRAINING WEBINAR:

MOAA staff will conduct a virtual Training Webinar on Thursday, March 24th, 2022, from 4pm-5pm (EDT).

- The training webinar will provide teams with information on the three advocacy topics, as well as the logistics and "need to know" information for conducting a successful virtual meeting.
- Participants will receive an email with more information about how to attend the webinar closer to the event.
- If you or a team member cannot attend the virtual training webinar on March 24th, a recording will be made available on the private webpage soon after.

## LOGISTICS

\*\*\*Refer to attached State Captain Checklist for key dates and deadlines.

## SCHEDULING MEETINGS:

Once you have your team(s) assigned to legislators, they should begin making appointments. We strongly recommend making the initial phone call or email requests by Friday, March 25th, 2022.

- Teams can use the “Congressional Schedulers List” (listing of legislator offices and contact information, by state and district) on the private webpage to begin contacting offices.
- You may also call your legislators’ offices, toll-free, via MOAA’s direct line to the congressional switchboard at: (866) 272-6622.

Legislators’ schedulers will likely ask team leaders to fax or e-mail a formal request letter. MOAA will provide a template letter for making congressional appointments.

- The “Congressional Scheduler List” and “Suggested Letter for Congressional Appointments” will both be made available on the private webpage on Friday, March 11th, 2022.

NOTE: Remember, the goal is to contact every office – some will not result in a meeting but continue to try to meet with the staff—be sure to account for those contacts and share our AiA materials during that initial contact. If the legislator will not be available, it will still benefit our cause if teams are able to meet virtually with the chief of staff or legislative assistant for military/veteran issues.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### PRIVATE WEBPAGE:

Your private webpage with the latest resources will be live on March 11th, 2022, at: [www.moaa.org/2022participants](http://www.moaa.org/2022participants).

- To access this page, enter the username and password you use to log in to the MOAA.org website.
- If you cannot remember your username and/or password use the links provided on the login page to reset them, or you can contact MOAA's Member Service Center for help at: [MSC@moaa.org](mailto:MSC@moaa.org) or (800) 234-6622.

### PUBLIC WEBSITE:

The public AiA website will provide updates to non-participants about the campaign topics and your advocacy efforts and can be accessed at: [www.moaa.org/AIA](http://www.moaa.org/AIA).

If you have any questions about our Advocacy in Action event, please use this email: [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org)

Sincerely,

MOAA’s Government Relations and Council & Chapter Affairs Teams