



September 21, 2018

Dear MOWC Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this to our membership. The MOWC Board, after much deliberation, has decided to disband our organization effective January 2019. We will continue to meet as a separate MOWC group for the next three months at our normally scheduled luncheons. October will be our annual Tea Party, November will be a "Walk Down Memory Lane" with photos and stories etc., and we will end with a Holiday Celebration in December, including a Secret Santa gift swap. The Holiday luncheon will be free to all members as our parting gift to the club. If possible, we would like to have as many members attend all of these luncheons as possible, going out with a bang!!

The board did not come to this decision lightly and I thought I would provide to you the reasoning behind the disbanding. Our membership, on paper, still looks strong at over 100 members, however, the membership that attends the monthly luncheons has dwindled down to between 15-20 on average, sometimes even less during the summer months. It is hard to justify procuring a speaker or entertainment for that few guests. We realize that health, transportation and other issues all impact our membership's ability to attend the monthly luncheons. It has been over a year since we have had over 20 members attend. As a board it is quite a bit of work sustaining this group and although we love our fellowship and outreach, without a steady stream of new members it has become difficult to fill positions when someone has to leave the board.

As I'm sure you all are aware the *Chit Chat* is no longer printed and mailed to you. The newsletter is only being sent to those that have the ability to see it online through email. This drastic change has been unfortunate, but fiscally necessary. Our newsletter budget was running in the red every month due to lack of advertising and the last thing we wanted to do was to increase our annual dues, once again, to offset these losses. The last *Chit Chat* will go out in December. Thank you so much, Shirley Helveston, for your dedication and hard work making our newsletter amazing!!!!!!

As if those weren't enough reasons, the Surf's Edge recently contacted both MOAA and MOWC to inform us that we would have to find an alternative location to meet for next April through June. Apparently, they are remodeling once again and will close for those 3 months. So it seemed, with all of these issues, it was the right time to make the hard decision to disband.

I spoke with Carol Zieres, the MOAA President, after our last luncheon and she has invited any of our ladies that wish to still attend the monthly luncheons, to join them. For our widowed members that want to attend the MOAA luncheons, beginning in January, please call their reservation line and let them know you'll be attending. Carol did assure me that if our members wanted a separate table that would be possible. For those MOWC members that drive in with their husbands they also would be more than welcome to attend as well. *The Retrospect* newsletter is online each month so you will be able to see what their upcoming luncheons will be featuring.

Lastly, as we are getting ready to disband, we are looking at various military charities that could benefit from a donation in order to liquidate our treasury. We have several good ideas thus far but if you know of a military charity in need please send a note or call one of our board members. We will be making the decision on how to disburse our treasury funds at our October Board meeting.

I want to thank our incredible MOWC board of ladies that has worked so tirelessly over the last several years to make our luncheons not only a fun and enjoyable place to gather but also to share and support each other! It has been my privilege and honor to serve as President of this organization twice over the last 10 years. This club has provided me personally with much needed support during my battle with cancer and given all three of my children scholarships to attend college. These gifts have truly made a lasting impact on my life and I am so grateful to MOWC for everything it has done!!!

Sincerely,

Kathy Kennett

Kathy Kennett
MOWC President