



MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS
United States Army

Silver Caduceus Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 39514
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SCA E-NEWS FEBRUARY 2016

SCA 2016 REUNION IS COMING!!

The 2016 SCA Reunion will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton , San Antonio Airport, from Wednesday, 28 Sep 2016 thru Saturday, 1 Oct 2016. MSC 100th Anniversary is in 2017 (non-SCA reunion year), so come celebrate early with us! AOC (MOS for us older folks) Dinners will be held Wednesday Evening, starting around 1700/1800. The Pharmacy and Healthcare Admin AOCs have current dinner coordinators, but we need volunteers for the other AOCs. We are looking at a number of fantastic tour opportunities probably beginning Thursday (perhaps Wednesday if it looks like enough folks will be around to merit such), and Friday (afternoon), maybe even Saturday pm. Arrangements are being made for a number of great speakers Friday and Saturday mornings! Golf on Friday afternoon and banquet Saturday night . The hotel is now taking reservations, and has a 24-hour prior to arrival cancellation policy in case your plans change, so go on and make your reservations! Please use the following hotel reservation numbers (use of sites like Kayak or Hotels.com will not apply to our contract minimum room numbers and thus might put our budget in the red): Room rates are \$106.00 plus \$16.75% tax per night, thus \$123 per night (breakfast is NOT included). Group code is SCA; 1-800-729-5713, or direct to hotel at 210-321-4855, website is SanAntonioAirport.DoubleTree.com (case sensitive). More reunion info to follow in coming couple months, with registration forms hopefully in May/June, but please go on and make hotel reservations. Feel free to email me should you have questions or wish to volunteer as an AOC coordinator or such; Jim Whitmire, jwhitmire@satx.rr.com. Thanks!!

99TH MSC Anniversary 30 JUNE 2016

This year marks the 99th Anniversary of the founding of the Medical Service Corps. I am sure many locations are planning celebrations to mark this event. Please communicate with COL(R) Chuck Adams at drcadams@me.com, regarding your plans and he will ensure your event is promoted by the Silver Caduceus Association.

Preliminary plans are being made for one such event this year. The SCA Delaware Valley Social Gathering has scheduled a Spring Outing on Friday, April 15, 2016 at the Freedoms Foundation Campus located near Valley Forge, PA.

You are asked to let them know if you have an interest in attending this Social Gathering, and if so, how many do you anticipate would be in your party? Family members and friends are invited to participate. This message is being sent to SCA Members in the Delaware Valley Area; however, all Medical Service Corps Officers are invited.

Carl Witte and Bill Magill have done a great job in putting together the plans for this Social Gathering.

The SCA group will meet at or around 8:14 on Friday, April 15th at the Freedoms Foundation Campus located near Valley Forge, PA. This will be the first full day of the April three day Youth Leadership Conference in which Military Order of the World Wars students will be in attendance. There is no real reason to do it on the same day as the MOWW sponsored students, but Carl and Bill would like to invite some of their MOWW Companions to accompany the SCA group on a tour of the Freedoms Foundation campus and the Battlefield, so it might as well be "economy of scale".

The proposed itinerary:

Meet at the Welcome Center between 0815 to 0845.

0900: Observe the students as they watch a debate between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

1000-1115: Tour the Freedoms Foundation Campus

1115-1130: Travel to the Valley Forge National Historical Park..the site of the 1777-78 winter encampment of the Continental Army.

1130-1230: Lunch at one of the picnic areas. We will look in to having it catered. Of course, we will need to have a back-up plan in case of inclement weather.

1230 until o/a 1430: Tour of the battlefield. We can get a tour guide. The park is large, so we will have to convoy around the Park.

Time permitting, we can travel to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains for a tour..maybe by CAPT Louis Cavaliere, USN, Chairman of the Board of Directors. This may be a push though, as our group is not young and we don't want to get in rush hour traffic.

Below are web site links to the Freedoms Foundation, the Valley Forge Historical Park and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

<http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/>

<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

<http://www.fourchaplains.org>

A Different Face of War by James G. Van Stratton Book Review

This is a review by the "Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA), which is the largest and most influential of the Vietnam veterans groups. It is a very favorable review and has the potential to stimulate sales.

COL(R) Van Stratton writes: "You would be surprised at how many letters and email messages I'm getting, not only from the United States, but also from Canada and Australia, asking me questions about the Medical Service Corps. It is as if they knew very little about what we did and what we are all about and they're eager to find out. Even a lot of retired non-AMEDD officers have written and in essence said, "I had no idea you guys (MSC officers and warrant officers) were involved in so many different things." It has been reassuring and rewarding. So far sales have been going great."

Jim hopes you have found the book to be interesting. All who have read it seem to feel that it puts the MSC in a very favorable light. He has been deluged with requests to speak about the book. He just agreed recently to give the closing capstone address about the book at the annual meeting of the Texas Association of Clinical Laboratory Scientists. They meet in San Antonio in April and are expecting between 200-250 to attend.

Click on this link and scroll down.

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Linked IN

The SCA LinkedIn Account is managed by Jim Vinci and he provided the following:

Our Association is now represented on LinkedIn as the Silver Caduceus Association Group. LinkedIn is a secure professional networking WEB site for people in professional occupations now or retired. Founded in December 2002, LinkedIn has more than 200 million users in more than 200 countries and territories.

As a member of the Group you will be able to enjoy the benefits of initiating discussions, post and search for jobs, share topics of importance to the SCA and keep in touch with other Group members. Communicating through the Group will also give us another method of instantly communicating with our SCA members.

If you are already a LinkedIn member then all you need to do to become a member of the SCA LinkedIn group is to login to LinkedIn and go to the search window and type in "Silver Caduceus Association" and ask to join the the group. Once that is done, Our the Group Moderator, Jim Vinci, who initiated and developed the Group, will receive your request and immediately process it to make you a Group Member and give you access.

If you are not currently part of LinkedIn, then you will first need to register on LinkedIn and then you can follow the process as outlined in the previous paragraph to get on the Group.

To post an article, start a discussion or comment on a discussion on our SCA LinkedIn site the following steps are recommended:

1. Sign in to LinkedIn
2. Click on "Interests" in the top dock which is a black header and choose "Groups"
3. Click on "My Groups" in the blue dock under the dock described in #2 above
4. Click on "SCA"
5. Click on "Enter a conversation title..."
6. Type your title of article, post or discussion in the first window
7. Type your discussion or post in the second window
8. Go to the extreme right side of the page when finish and click on "POST"

To comment on an article or discussion already posted:

1. Sign in to LinkedIn
2. Click on "Interests" in the top dock which is a black header and choose "Groups"
3. Click on "My Groups" in the blue dock under the dock described in #2 above

4. Click on "SCA"
5. Choose the discussion, article or previous post which you wish to comment, by scrolling down through the various post
6. Click on "comment"
7. Type your comment in the window that appears
8. Go to the extreme right side of the page when finish and click on "POST"

We already have a good core group signed up and I strongly urge all our members to do the same.

Face Book

The SCA Face Book account is currently administered by CPT Thomas A. Tucker II, MS, Army HQ Europe, Office of Command Surgeon, Planner and Operations Officer, stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The name of our face book account is Silver Caduceus Association.

The link for the page is: <https://www.facebook.com/Silver-Caduceus-Association-287265814776102/>

The intent behind the page is to share our newsletter, information relevant to our association and encourage dialogue.

To date we have 394 likes or followers of the page.

Changes coming to Social Security on 1 May 2016 "threaten the financial security" of millions of Americans.

WHAT'S TRUE: Changes to Social Security will eliminate a few strategies that allow some recipients to maximize their benefits.

WHAT'S FALSE: Changes to Social Security will fundamentally affect core benefits and "threaten the financial security" of millions of Americans.

ORIGIN: In October 2015, [HR 1314](#), also known as the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, was passed by Congress. That legislative bill called for some modifications to the Social Security program which are to take effect on 1 May 2016. The coming changes will alter or eliminate a few [strategies](#) used by some people to maximize their Social Security benefits, however, so those in a position to take advantage of them while they still exist need to know how they can be "grandfathered" in.

The first change applies to Social Security's "file and suspend" strategy, which allowed couples to maximize their combined benefits by having one spouse file for Social Security upon reaching full retirement age (currently 66), then immediately suspending the benefits. This allowed the other spouse to claim a spousal benefit while their deferred Social Security grew 8 percent per year until age 70:

The file-and-suspend strategy will no longer work after May 1, 2016. At that time, a person must file for Social Security and actually receive benefits in order for a husband or wife to get a spousal benefit.

However, for those who are at least 66 or who will turn 66 by April 30, 2016, there is still an opportunity to get in under the old file-and-suspend system. Those who do squeak in under the deadline will be grandfathered in under the old file-and-suspend rules.

Another change will eliminate "restricted applications," a mechanism that allows persons who are between full retirement age and age 70 to file an application to claim spousal benefits but defer collecting their own benefits; upon reaching 70, they change from receiving spousal benefits to receiving their own (larger) benefits: In the future, when a spouse files anytime after age 62, he or she will fall under the "deemed filing" rule, which already applies to people who are not at their full retirement age. "If you're under your full retirement age [and file], Social Security says you are deemed to have taken your own benefit," says Ian Kutner, a certified financial planner with San Diego Wealth Management, explaining the origin of the name.

With the elimination of restricted applications and the introduction of deemed filing for all ages, a spouse can only receive the larger of either their spousal benefit or their own benefit. They can't change their choice either, which means no deferring benefits until age 70 and then switching options for a larger monthly check.

However, those who will turn 62 by the end of the year will be grandfathered in under the old rules for restricted applications.

The last of the pending changes affects suspended benefits, a mechanism that allows persons to file for Social Security but suspend their benefits, then at a later date request payments dating retroactive to their original filing date:

For example, if a man filed for Social Security at age 66 and then suspended his payments, his benefits would grow at a rate of 8 percent per year. However, if the man came down with a life-threatening illness at age 68, he could retroactively unsuspend his benefits. He would lose the 16 percent bump in pay he should have received from deferring payments, but Social Security will send a lump sum payment for the past two years. Future monthly payments would be made at the same rate the man would have received had he started benefits at age 66.

It allowed people to hedge their bets by establishing a filing date for Social Security. They could defer their monthly benefit amount and let it grow but also rest assured they could receive that money retroactively if needed.

Under the new rules, Social Security beneficiaries can no longer retroactively unsuspend benefits. In the example above, if the man needed to start receiving benefits at age 68, he could still unsuspend his filing. He would not receive a lump sum payout for the previous two years, but he would begin to receive his monthly payments at a higher rate, thanks to the deferral.

Note: Admittedly, this is a complicated topic, and those who are interested may want to research further as each individual's circumstances and social security filing strategies are different.