

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

March 2023 Volume: 14 Issue 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

I was going through my library and came across my father's 1941 edition of the Officer's Guide, very interesting. I compared it to my 1972 edition and there are some differences and many commonalities. The basic theme in the beginning of both Officer's Guides is Officership, duty, responsibility, and commitment.

What struck me as important was the philosophy of duty, responsibility, and commitment, the cornerstones of being an officer. Although some of us may no longer wear the rank of officer, we still remember our duty, responsibilities, and commitment from our military life. These carry on to our job, family, and extracurricular activities.

We take pride in all we do based on those military foundations, yet many things compete for our precious time. How to balance our commitment to all the things we want to do is the dilemma.

Membership in MOAA is one of the many ways we can continue to serve. Taking care of soldiers and their families, that all of our earned benefits are not eroded, and our legislative priorities receive fair and impartial consideration. I believe we have all chosen MOAA to be our advocate ensuring the benefits we've earned are protected. We must continue the "taking care of soldiers" mantra.

Participation in MOAA's bimonthly newsletter and legislative "Calls for Action" are easy ways to continue to serve. Attending our monthly meetings and actives further reinforces the notion of "still serving".

Cont. on pg. 7

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

MSVC lunch meeting program on 17 February centered on Veteran Suicide Prevention presented by Mr. Lee Wagner of the University of Pittsburgh Hospital and concentrated on how to get assistance for suicide intervention. Mr. Wagner also offered statistics on the age groups of veterans most likely to attempt/commit suicide. Surprisingly older veterans are the most vulnerable group.

Excellent program regarding a new approach to Veteran suicides. Twenty-seven MSVC members were in attendance.



Lee Wagner and MSVC President Rod Hosler



MSVC-MOAA
PO Box 5342
Poland, OH 44514

WWW.MSVC-MOAA.ORG
msvcmoaa@gmail.com
WWW.MOAA.ORG

WHAT MOAA IS SUPPORTING

Protecting TRICARE For Life

The TRICARE For Life (TFL) program launched in 2001. Since then, TFL has come under budgetary attack in multiple legislative cycles, with MOAA and other advocacy groups working to preserve the benefit for Medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees and their families.

MOAA's advocacy efforts, including congressional testimony, statements for the record, and engagement with Armed Services Committee staff and member offices on Capitol Hill, successfully blocked five consecutive administration budget request proposals for a TFL enrollment fee in fiscal years 2013-2017.

These proposals included enrollment fees based on military retirement income level that would have been indexed annually based on either retiree COLA or health care inflation.

Securing a Basic Needs Allowance for Families Facing Food Insecurity

MOAA, working with organizations including Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the National Military Family Association, highlighted the number of military families facing food insecurity. Together, we advocated for the creation of a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA), a monthly payment to servicemembers whose gross household income falls below 130% of federal poverty guidelines for the member's location and household size. Of note, the proposed legislation we advocated for excluded the basic allowance for housing (BAH) in the calculation of gross household income.

Several factors played into the rise of food insecurity among military families:

The 2.6% pay gap that has resulted from multiple years of the military basic pay raise not meeting the Employment Cost Index (ECI).

A decades-long 22% or higher unemployment rate among military spouses – likely more in the 30% to 34% range following impacts of the pandemic on women in the workplace.

High rates of ineligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for military families due to the inclusion of the housing allowance in the calculation of gross household income.

Skyrocketing housing rates nationwide.

After a successful virtual Advocacy in Action event in 2021, language was included in the FY 2022 NDAA directing DoD to create the Basic Needs Allowance; however, the inclusion of BAH in the calculation of gross household income is at the discretion of service secretaries, leaving MOAA and other advocacy organizations [unsure how well the BNA will address food insecurity](#).

NEVER STOP SERVING



Florence Hosler, SSL

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

By Nancy Mullen

[Survivor Benefit Plan Update](#)

The FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act terminated the so-called "widows tax," allowing eligible military surviving spouses to collect the full Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) in full, with no offset (no reduction) after a three-year phase-in period. We are now entering the third and final phase. What happens now?

Survivor benefits. DIC, SBP, and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) were increased by the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 8.7% with the January 2023 payments. Beginning Feb. 1, 2023, eligible surviving spouses will receive their full SBP payment from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and their full DIC payment from the VA without offset. The SSIA payment will stop, as this payment essentially becomes part of the full SBP payment. If you recall, the SSIA was a temporary solution to the offset, which is no longer necessary due to the aforementioned legislation. Although the SSIA goes away, the total these surviving spouses receive in their name will not be less than what was received the month prior for these specific benefits. There is no change to DIC other than the COLA increase.

Mullen is the Second Vice Chair of [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#).

[Reacting to Stress](#)

By Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN (Ret), Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

Stress happens to all of us; no one can escape it. It's how we handle the stressful situation — the fight-or-flight response — that's important. There are many resources and recommendations to manage stress.

[MOAA WEBINARS](#)

Transition and Career
Finance
Health Care
VA and Military Benefits
End of Life
How MOAA Can Help

MOAA offers both live and archived webinars under the topics listed above, if you can't make a current event they are sent to registered participants as well as being archived for your own schedule. Check them out, there is a great deal of useful information!

MOAA-Supported Legislation

MOAA's experts in Washington are constantly reviewing and assessing any and all legislation that may impact the earned pay, benefits, and support programs of the uniformed services and veteran communities. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative.

Active Legislative Campaigns

MOAA's Priorities:

Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
Military Housing
Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
Service Families
Survivors
Guard and Reserve

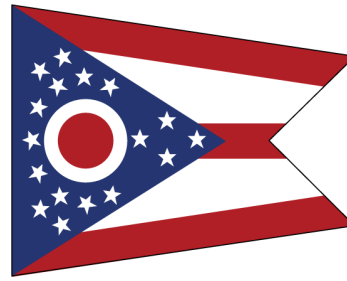
Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to ADVOCACY section scroll down to Legislative Action Center. This link identifies all of the legislative issues and bills that MOAA supports which require our active involvement "to take action." The needs of our military should always be the first priority of Congress. It is unfortunate that our federal legislators fail to step up and meet the needs of American's military without constants reminders and prodding to do the right thing; and people wonder why Congress has a low popularity rating. Remember to contact your Congressional representatives (Senate and House) to express your concerns. Please remember that there are also many state legislative issues that require your support as well.

MOAA's motto: "**Never Stop Serving,**" is a practice we all can subscribe to.

The Piastewa Challenge: Celebrating women in military service

March is Women's History Month, and wear blue: run to remember is holding its third annual Piastewa Challenge to remember our fallen female warriors and celebrate women in military service. The Piastewa Challenge is a 177-mile virtual event that honors the service and sacrifice of our nation's women Veterans; the more than 400,000 currently serving female soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines; and the 177 women killed in action since September 11, 2001. [From VA News]

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS



OHIO

Ohio Legislature



Pennsylvania

DOCUMENTS REPORTED OUT BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

These links take you to current OH & PA bills of military and veteran interest.

WWW (Walters Wonderful Words of Wisdom)

Things you need to know

*Upward trend in congress, more veterans serving, 97 out of 535

*Why did you join MOAA, then share with others

*Special attention to Tri-Care proposed changes and let our leaders know your opinion

*Should anyone ask, this is the 118th Congress

*www.moaa.org is where you will find your /our goals

*Spring right around the corner.....and so isPICKLE BALL

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

[Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits](#)
[Military Housing](#)

[Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees](#)

[Health Care and Benefits for Veterans](#)

[Service Families](#)

[Survivors](#)

[Guard and Reserve](#)

CLICK, READ & ACT!!

MOAA needs your help to keep momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and had the support of two-thirds of Congress at the end of last session. We also need your work on behalf of new objectives and emergent issues, often via immediate action to keep up with the stop-and-go pace of legislation. To keep connected, ensure you are signed up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#) and register as an advocate at our [Legislative Action Center](#).

MILITARY HISTORY, EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR MARCH

05 Mar 1770 - The Boston Massacre occurred as a group of rowdy Americans patriots harassed British soldiers who then opened fire, killing five and wounding six.

05 Mar 1946: Thee "Iron Curtain" speech delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, MO.

06 Mar 1836: The Alamo falls to Mexican forces, "Remember the Alamo."

29 Mar 1973: National Vietnam War Day.

31 Mar 1933: Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC, was founded and administered by the U.S. Army.



Legislative Contacts:

MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D) The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) U.S. Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2315 www.brown.senate.gov

Senator James D. (J.D.) Vance (R) U.S. Senate
B40-C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3353 www.vance.senate.gov
or 240 East 9th Street, Room 3061
Cleveland, OH 44199

Representative Bill Johnson (R)
U.S. Congressional OH District 6
192 East State St. Salem, OH 44460
Phone (330) 337-6951 www.billjohnson.house.gov
or Washington, D.C. Office
2082 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-5705 or
4137 Boardman-Canfield Road
Suite 106
Canfield, OH 44406
T (330) 967-7312

Representative David P. Joyce (R)
U.S. Congressional OH District 14
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-3514
Phone: (202) 225-5731 www.joyce.house.gov
or 8500 Station Street
Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 352-3939

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D) U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6324 www.casey.senate.gov

Senator John Fetterman (D) U.S. Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4254 www.fetterman.senate.gov/

Representative Mike Kelly (R)
U.S. Congressional PA District 16
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC
(202) 225-5406
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov

Why Join MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: NEVER STOP SERVING.

To Join MOAA National: use the web site www.moaa.org/join or call 800-234-6622

BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM (ANNUAL) OR LIFE MEMBER:

The Chapter currently has 129 members: 35 Life members, 27 Premium (Annual) Members, and 48 Basic members. Premium (Annual) and Life level of membership allows members full access to all MOAA benefits, travel service, free information publications, and discounts at many MOAA supported businesses. Basic member are MOAA National members, but pay no National MOAA dues and only have access to the MOAA website receiving just the electronic newsletter. Paying Premium or Life member dues also funds the programs sponsored by MOAA, and more important MOAA's lobbying efforts with Congress. Get full MOAA National benefits by becoming a Premium or Life member. Use the MOAA web site www.moaa.org/join or call 1-800-234-6622

KEEP MOAA NATIONAL INFORMED

Personal information listed on the MOAA National membership roster can only be changed by you, the individual member. Correct your information via your login at www.moaa.org, "My Profile" Information or call 1-800-234-6622. Changes include:

- ◆ address
- ◆ email
- ◆ telephone number
- ◆ rank or military status

March Membership Corner

By David J Di Tallo, 2nd Vice Pres/Membership Chair

Our chapter begins the 2023 calendar year with seven (7) net new members from this time last year. We currently stand at 129 chapter members, of who 113 are also MOAA members (Basic, Premium, and Life).

A special note of thanks is due to our Student Affairs Director, Stephen Motika, for recruiting all seven of last year's newly-commissioned Army Second Lieutenants from Youngstown State University and those members who convinced friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to join MOAA and our local chapter. THANK YOU!

Unfortunately, we had five (5) existing chapter members who did not wish to renew their 2022 membership or who were disenrolled due to non-payment of dues.

Thanks are also in order to those members who have already renewed their memberships for 2023, allowing us to collect close to 40% of our annual due already.

Membership renewals in the amount of \$20 are due not later than April 1, 2023. If you fly south for the winter or hibernate until March, please pay your dues online at our secure chapter website or mail us a check!

The best recruiting tool we have continues to be word of mouth. Please make use of our "Bring a Friend" program - invite a current, former, or retired Commissioned or Warrant Officer and/or their current or surviving spouse to one our monthly events, and the chapter will cover

Also, please continue to use our "Be Our Guest" cards, which you can hand someone you may not know personally. If they qualify for chapter membership, they can attend a lunch or dinner meeting at no cost. Please contact me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or call me at (330) 758-8597 if you have any questions regarding your membership, "Bring a Friend", or "Be Our Guest".

Contact me if you need any "Be Our Guest" cards.

MSVC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2023

\$20 for members and spouse membership.

Pay online: <http://msvc-moaa.org/membership>

Or by mail:

**MSVC-MOAA
PO Box 5342
Poland, OH
44514**

This Newsletter is published by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC), which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Any advertisements that appear in this publication/website also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in this newsletter, are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2016, Military Officers Association of American All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick A. Hosler, USA, Ret.; P.O. Box 5342; Poland, OH 44514; E-mail: msvcmoaa@gmail.com.

MSVC Board Members:

President: Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)
hosler1@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270

1st Vice President: Bruce Bille, LT, USN, (Fmr)
bbille.usna.82@gmail.com 330-333-0397

2nd Vice President: Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)
david.ditallo@gmail.com 330-758-8597

Secretary: Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)
alcalind@zoominternet.net 330-757-0336

Treasurer: Florence Hosler, LT, USN, (Fmr)
hoslerfm@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270

Members at Large:

Walter Duzzny, COL, USA, (Ret.)
colduzz@zoominternet.net 330-792-7068

John Marino, LTC, USA, Ret.
jamco@att.net 330-533-6386

Stephen J. Motika, MAJ, USA, (Ret.)
smm6162@aol.com 330-647-1704

Ralph DeLucia, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
rok31A@msn.com 330-727-9205

Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
gartlanddj2@yahoo.com (330) 637-4843



MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[Note: Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, Canfield.]

[Dinner Meetings - 5:30 PM gathering, 6:00 PM dinner served.]

[Lunch Meetings - 11:30 AM gathering, 12:00/Noon lunch served.]

MARCH 17 – Luncheon Meeting, Program: LTC Jeff Shaffer from the 910th Air Wing

APRIL 27 – ROTC/JROTC Recognition Dinner. Please note change of date

MAY 18 – Dinner Meeting, Program: Motika/Lind Presentation, Indian Wars Military Artifacts.

JUNE 15 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, Program: TBD.

JULY 20 – Picnic and Gun Shoot at Fish and Game Club of Vienna, OH, 4:00 PM.

AUGUST 17 – Dinner Meeting, Program, TBD (Nomination of Officers).

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30 – Ohio MOAA Convention, Youngstown Air Reserve Base

OCTOBER 20 – Lunch Meeting (Annual Business Meeting)

NOVEMBER 17 – Lunch Meeting, Program: TBA.

DECEMBER 09 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, 3:30 PM gathering, 4:00 Dinner.

FRIDAY 17 MARCH MOAA LUNCH MEETING

The Chapter will conduct its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 17 February at 12:00/Noon at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The speaker is LTC Jim Shaffer. He'll be talking about the 910th Air Wing and the base future. Reservation for the lunch must be received not later than **Tuesday 14 March** at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270. [Please NOTE: If you make a reservation and do not attend, we request you remit the cost of the meal as the Chapter must pay for the reserved meal count. Thank you for your understanding.] Hope to see you all there to support our chapter.



President's Message

We all have something to "bring to the table." Our leadership and managerial skills, our ability to organize and get things done, and not to sit on the sidelines. Get involved and make a contribution to the growth of our chapter and MOAA. Step up to the challenge. We can do our duty, take on some responsibility, make a commitment to our chapter, MOAA and ourselves. You'll find it's not that hard and in fact rewarding. Get involved, what else do you have to do? I look forward to your participation.

Officer, it's not just a title, but an attitude and way of life.

Rod Hosler
President



MOAA OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION

The OCC will convene its biennial convention **29 -30 September to 1 October 2023** at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station. Tentative program speakers are: the new MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret.); former CEO of USAA, Gen. Lester Lyles, USAF (Ret.) and CAPT Erin Stone, Director of the Councils and Chapters of MOAA and others. **OCC has reached out to Congressman Bill Johnson to attend the convention and talk about congressional actions affecting Ohio, the military and veterans.** Friday evening, 29 September will be the meet and greet reception and Saturday, 30 September is the Convention program, banquet/keynote speaker. The OCC will conduct its quarterly meeting on Sunday, 01 October, 10.00 – 12.00. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND THIS NOTEWORTHY EVENT.** More information will be provided in the months to come. It is important that the MSVC supports this convention with our attendance.

**CONVENTION COUNTDOWN
207 DAYS**

WESTERN RESERVE PORT AUTHORITY

Youngstown - Warren REGIONAL AIRPORT

5th Annual 5K on the Runway

Check in: 7:00am Opening Ceremonies: 7:45am
Location: Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport
Cost: \$35 per person
Includes: T-shirt, Medal, Snack, Water

**July 16, 2022
8:00am**

Proceeds benefit the future of Youngstown Air Reserve Station via the Youngstown Air Reserve Base Community Council whose mission is to invest in and maintain the presence of Youngstown Air Reserve Station through advocacy and public awareness.

Facebook
@youngstown5kontherunway
E-mail
the5kontherunway@gmail.com

For questions contact
Cathy Moore
330.423.8935

SCAN ME TO REGISTER



1 • #38381703
6/27/18, 15:26

I just feel a tactical pogo stick could be extremely efficient in a military raid, just picture it.

- >be marine
- >silently and rapidly approach target's location
- >10 foot fence
- >speed up
- >slam my weight down
- >15 feet high
- >front flip for extra aerodynamic points
- >also looks cooler
- >target guards hear nothing as i pounce over the flood lights
- >land on roof
- >go down chimney on pogo stick
- >target hears nothing so doeant look up
- >gag and tie target to back
- >pogo back up chimney
- >leave

13 REPLIES

2 #38381721 6/27/18 15:28

>>38381703 OP

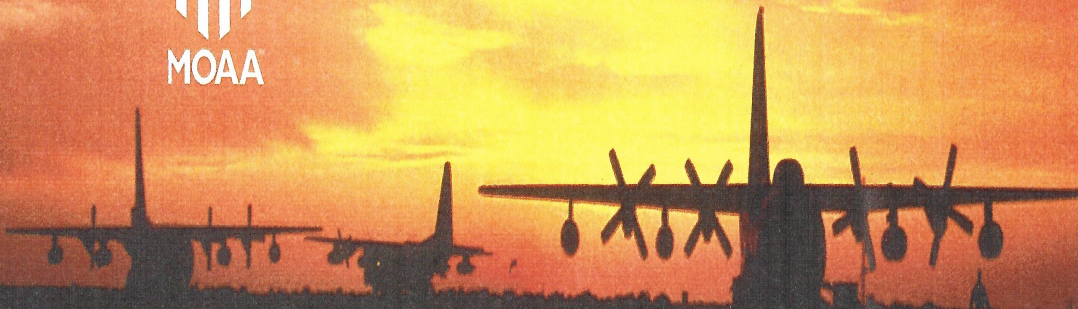
10/10
imgflip.com

SAVE-THE-DATES

Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2023

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Ohio Council of Chapters
Biennial Convention**



Youngstown Air Reserve Station

Home of C-130's

Vienna, Ohio

**Host Chapters:
Mahoning & Shenango Valleys
Ohio Western Reserve
The Greater Cleveland**

**\$59 covers program
and meals, lodging
\$89/night at the
Eagle's Nest**