

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

April/May 2023 Volume: 14 Issue 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

This newsletter covers both April and May 2023. The country and world seems to be in constant turmoil. The national and international scene leaves many of us speculating on the outcome. The country is politically, economically and morally divided with no sign of resolution in sight.. Incompetence and partisanship at all levels of our national, state and local governments are the norm; putting America and its citizens and national security at risk. Most just don't seem to care and it's hard to figure if it is deliberate or just by chance. On the world stage, China, Russia and other totalitarian governments are threatening the United States militarily and economically as never before and we could find ourselves in a real shooting conflict or economically destroyed. Why our government is letting this happen is beyond reason.

One thing that has always been the salvation to most crises has been our strong and steady military, the fundamental foundation of our national being, but even our military is being threatened by woke culture that denigrates American history and society by doctrine that are contrary to our basic and fundamental beliefs. The one thing that has been the constant leveler is America's military; fair, just and impartial, but perhaps not as much any more.

How America treats its military has always been an ongoing struggle. Ensuring we have a strong military with the best and brightest is a constant effort. Dumbing down our education system, placing inclusion and equity above merit will be the death knell of our military and country. We must urge our political leaders to forego and withstand the woke environment pressed by the anti-American politicians and left groups within and outside of our government. Your expressions of concern must be heard throughout the halls of government.

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MARCH and APRIL MEETINGS ROLLUP

The Chapter meet on Friday, 17 March at A La Cart Catering. The program was "the 910th Airlift Wing and the future of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS)" and presented by recently retired Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer, USAF, a long time 910th Airlift Wing of-fice. Twenty-five members were in attendance.

CADET NIGHT DINNER MEETING

The Chapter hosted its premier annual Cadet Night Recognition Dinner Thursday, 27 April at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The Chapter recognized YSU Senior ROTC Cadet Jakob Althouse recipient of the MOAA ROTC Medal, and three Junior ROTC MOAA Medal recipients: Cadet Maximillian McCormack, East High School Army JROTC; Cadet Demetra Bowkowski, Fitch High School Air Force JROTC and Cadet Olive D. Karam, Trumbull Career and Technical Center Air Force JROTC. The ROA JROTC Medal recipient Cadet Ilenys Marcano, East High School Army JROTC was also recognized. Accompanying these cadets were parents: Mr. and Mrs. Marcano, and Mr. Frank and Jenny Bowkowski. Cadet Olive Karam and her parents Mr. and Mrs. Karam were unable to attend. The Chapter recognized three YSU Senior ROTC Cadets that will soon be commissioned as Army Second Lieutenants: Cadets Brandon Greathouse, Field Artillery; Scotlund Shaffer, Ordnance Corps; and Christian Patterson, Medical Service Corps, all serving on active duty. Also recognized but unable to attend was YSU Cadet Mark Kinne, Medical Service Corps Army National Guard. Attending were ROTC/JROTC instructors: Col. Kevin Riley, USAF Ret., Fitch High School AF JROTC; LT. Col. John Miller, USAF Ret., TCTC AF JROTC; MAJ Kevin Bukowski, USA, Ret, YSU; and the ever steady and reliable MSG Douglas Moon, USA, Ret. Fifteen guests and twenty-six members attended.

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Cadet Night cont.

The following members graciously sponsored cadets at the Cadet Recognition Dinner, THANK YOU: Col. Dick & Linda Calta, CPT Ralph DeLuca, CDR Dave DiTallo, CPT Dennis & Esther Gartland, CPT Rob & Anna Hanni, LTC Rod & LT Florence Hosler, Col. Brian Kennedy, MAJ Dave & Pat Long, MAJ Joe Mersol, Lt. Col. Ralph & Beth Minton, MAJ Steve Motika, CAPT Nick & Rose Pacalo, LTC Don & Bonnie Rasile, Maj. Jack Russell, MAJ Rick Williams, 1LT Dennis McMahan, LTC Genevieve Germaniuk and LTC Mike & Barb Wisniewski.

Rod Hosler & A-F HS Cadet Demetra Bowkowski



Rod Hosler, Cadet Bowkowski, her parents and Col Kevin Riley, AF JROTC instructor



Rod Hosler, EHS Cadet Maximillian McCormack and MSgt Douglas Moon, Army JROTC instructor



Rod Hosler and LtCol John Miller accepting the award for TCTC AF JROTC Cadet Olive Karam

Photos by Dave DiTallo



Florence Hosler, SSL

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9 Ways to Get Through Hard Times

By: Suzanne Walker

From celebrating joyous occasions like Mother's Day and graduations and welcoming warmer weather and spring flowers to enduring the sometimes melancholy days of spring showers and the remembrances of the fallen at Memorial Day, the month of May can sometimes feel like an emotional roller coaster.

It might help to have some strategies for handling lows. Consider these tips:

1. Seek out the friendship and companionship of others. Do something you enjoy with a friend or family member.
2. Take a walk, and enjoy being outside on a nice day.
3. Give your time to a worthy cause. Support those less fortunate, or visit someone who is lonely.
4. Learn something new. Try a new craft or hobby.
5. Listen to music. Maybe try a genre or artist you have not listened to before.
6. Label and organize your photos. Relive the happy memories by documenting the stories behind your photos.
7. Write a letter. A handwritten note or card is always welcomed.
8. Attend a patriotic event. Watch a Memorial Day parade, or help place flags at a local cemetery.
9. Make new friends by participating in your [local MOAA chapter](#) or the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#).

Lt. Col. Suzanne Walker, USA (Ret)

Walker joined the MOAA staff in 2004 as the executive assistant to the president and the association's meeting and conference director. Among her current duties, she serves as staff adviser to MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#).

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

The **Major Richard Star Act**, which would have provided concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries, failed to make the 117th Congress due to a Congressional administrative oversight. The Major Richard Star Act will need to be reintroduced in the 118th Congress. Please contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act.

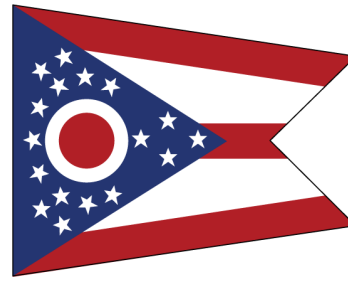
Legislative issues before the 118th Congress are:

- Reverse cuts to the TRICARE Pharmacy network.
- Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers, seeking to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%. Our nation expects 100% from servicemembers and we need to ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting BAH restoration.
- Support the All-Volunteer Force.
- Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap to expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.
- Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt
- Expanding America's National Cemetery Act.
- Oppose TRICARE for Life Fees and out-of-pocket cost requirements.
- Military Spouse Hiring Act, to incentivize businesses to hire military spouses.
- Retain Skilled Veterans Act, to end the so-called "180-day rule," which imposes a waiting period on those leaving service before they can take on certain types of DoD civilian employment. Many of these jobs are empty as qualified applicants with security clearances are forced to look elsewhere to start their careers.
- The Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act to provide our schools with the resources they need to help military-connected students reach their potential.

Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to ADVOCACY section scroll down to Legislative Action Center. MOAA's legislative issues can be found at the legislative take action alerts on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/> 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.

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.

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 America 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.

Cadet Night cont.



YSU cadets Christian Patterson, Scotlund Shaffer and Brandon Greathouse



Steve Motika, Rod Hosler and YSU cadet Jakob Althouse

Photos by Dave DiTallo

MILITARY HISTORY, EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR APRIL and MAY

6 Apr 1991: Persian Gulf War ends.

6-7 Apr 1862: Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing), Union victory over Confederate forces.

9 Apr 1865: Confederate Gen Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union Gen. U.S. Grant.

9 Apr 1942: U.S. and Filipino forces surrender on Bataan to the Japanese, beginning the 65- mile long Death March; 500 to 650 American POWs died and 5,000 to 18,000 Filipino POWs died during the march.

6 May 1942: American forces under Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright surrender Corregidor in the Philippines.

7 May 1945: V-E Day Germany surrenders to allies in Reims, France

11-30 May 1943, U.S. Army forces land and recapture Attu Island in the Aleutians off the coast of Alaska ending Japanese occupation of part of the United States.

29 May, Memorial Day, honor and recognize all diseased service personnel and Veterans killed in war or died in peace.

Legislative Contacts:

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

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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

MSVC Welcomes New Member - Shaun Robinson

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter - Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) continues to see an influx of new members!

Our newest member is LTC Shaun Robinson, U.S. Army, who attended our March Lunch Meeting as a guest of Ed Meade and decided to sign on with our chapter and join MOAA as a Basic member.

Shaun grew up in Rittman, OH and graduated from high school in 1986. He attended Kent State University and was commissioned via Officer Candidates School on September 9th, 2001. Shaun has served in Army Aviation, Armor, Ordnance, Logistics, and now Air Defense Artillery.

LTC Robinson is currently the Garrison Commander at Camp James A. Garfield following two combat deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. He enjoys boating and fishing on Portage Lakes where he lives with his wife Tina.

Welcome aboard, Shaun!

MSVC Welcomes New Member - Astrid Wisniewski

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter - Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) has recruited several new members this year, with most coming as guests of current members. But our newest chapter member joined all the way from Germany!

Astrid Wisniewski, wife of currently serving chapter member CW2 Steven Wisniewski, joined as a Spouse Member at the recommend of her in-laws, Barbara and Michael Wisniewski. Astrid and Steven are currently stationed near Ansbach, Germany with their two sons, Lucas (2018) and Dennis (2022)

Astrid is from Munich, Germany, where she studied English and Spanish with plans to be a professional translator. She later earned a diploma in air traffic management and began a career with airline Lufthansa. She and Steven met through a mutual friend in 2009.

Since their marriage, the couple has been stationed at Fort Bliss, TX (outside El Paso, TX), Hohenfels, Germany, and Fort Drum, NY (outside Watertown, NY).

Astrid's personal interests are different cultures and languages, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Welcome aboard, Astrid!

Steven Astrid and Lucas



Steven, Astrid and Dennis 5

MSVC Board Members:

President: Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)
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Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
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Thanks to USAA for their support of our ROTC and JROTC program.

Every year we receive \$300 from USAA towards the Medals and insignia we award YSU, East HS, Austintown/Fitch HS and TCTC cadets.



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 (Apr. – Sept.) - 5:30 PM gathering, 6:00 PM dinner served.]

[Lunch Meetings (Oct. – Mar.) - 11:30 AM gathering, 12:00/Noon lunch served.]

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

MAY 20 – Decoration of Graves, Calvary Cemetery, 9:00 AM, Youngstown.

MAY 29 – Memorial Day Ceremony, Oak Hill Cemetery, 8:00 AM, Youngstown.

JUN 15 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, 6:00 PM, Program: TBD.

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

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

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30 – **OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS, Youngstown Air Reserve Base**

OCT 20 – Lunch Meeting (Annual Business Meeting)

NOV 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown, 11:00 AM.

NOV 17 – Lunch Meeting, program: TBA.

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

THURSDAY 18 MAY MOAA DINNER MEETING

The Chapter will conduct its monthly dinner meeting on Thursday May 15, 5:30pm at A La Cart Catering .

The program will be presented by Al Lind and Steve Motika, with artifacts from the Indian Wars and the Spanish American War. Both are very knowledgeable and have great collections to share with us.

Reservation for the lunch must be received not later than **Tuesday 16 May** 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.

MOAA's legislative advocacy program is underway. Interacting with Congress places us in the forefront of protecting our military and keeping it strong. Two Ohio Council of Chapters members traveled to Washington to brief Ohio's Congressional legislators on MOAA's legislative priorities.

Since the 117th Congress failed to pass the Major Richard Star Act, it will have to be reintroduced in the 118th Congress. Please contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act. But there is more MOAA could do to support America's military and maintain strong national defense. MOAA should take up torch and leading to eliminate the woke culture and political instability affecting our military.

The Chapter proudly provided a YSU Army ROTC Cadet with the MOAA ROTC medal and monetary stipend as well as providing three Junior ROTC programs; East High School Army JROTC, Youngstown; Fitch High School Air Force JROTC, Austintown; and Trumbull Career and Technical Center's Air Force JROTC with MOAA Medals and a monetary rewards as a testament to their academic and military skills. A capstone to our ROTC support is the presentation of Second Lieutenants bars and Army branch insignia to all newly commissioned Second Lieutenants from the YSU Army ROTC program and to enroll them with Basic MOAA Membership and chapter membership. This year YSU will commission four Cadets as new Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. These Cadets were recognized at our dinner on 27 April.

Our Chapter is co-hosting the **Ohio Council of Chapter Convention** to be held at the **Youngstown Air Reserve Station, 29 and 30 September and 1 October**. We hope to get a great turnout in supporting our upcoming state convention. Your active participation in the convention and Chapter programs, events and meetings are critical for the life and survival of our Chapter and MOAA.

The MSVC along with the ROA will "**Decorate the Graves**" of Veterans on **Saturday, 20 May at 9:00 AM in Calvary Cemetery** section 39 at the corner of Bella Vista and Mahoning Ave in Youngstown. Hope to see you all there to honor these diseased Veterans with flags over their graves.

The MSVC along with the ROA will conduct a **Memorial Day Ceremony** on **Monday, 29 May at 8:30 AM in Oakhill Cemetery in Youngstown**. I hope to see you all there as we recognize and honor these diseased service personnel and Veterans, killed in war or died in peace.



[NOTE: The opinions expresses by the author do not represent the views of MOAA and this affiliate.]

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

MOAA OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION

The OCC will convene its biennial convention 29-30 September 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.

Cost is \$59.00 for five meals. Those that desire, may stay at the **Eagles Nest Lodge** on base for \$89.00 per night. Reservations for the Eagles Nest Lodge can be made by calling: (330) 609-1120 or (330) 609-1411.

Over \$4,000.00 worth of items will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus.

A separate drawing will take place to reimburse one lucky member of the lodging cost in the Eagles Nest.

It is important that the MSVC supports this convention with our attendance.

**CONVENTION COUNTDOWN
148 DAYS**

Thanks to the MOAA Insurance Plans for the support to our chapter each year.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAHONING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The MSVC Board of Directors recognized the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission for its outstanding support to the MSVC Board at its 6 April board meeting. For the past five years, the Veterans Service Commission has graciously provided a first class meeting facility that included the ability to use remote meeting equipment for the MSVC Board. Veterans Service Commission Director Susan Krawchyk (USA, Ret) accepted the award on behalf of the Service Commission.



Steve Motika, Al Lind, Susan Krawchyk, Ralph De Lucia and Bruce Bille
Photo by F. Hosler

East HS Awards Night



Mike Wisienewski and
ROA Medal
recipient Cadet Ileny
Marcano



MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War which ended in the spring of 1865 and claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

On May 5, 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, leader of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization for Union Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, Gen. James Garfield, spoke at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there. Congress declared Memorial an official federal holiday in 1971. Following World War I, American picked up the British tradition of wearing poppies to commemorate the sacrifice of those who have given their lives fighting for their country. John McCrae a Canadian Army doctor, killed in WWI wrote a poem that has symbolized the death of soldiers and that war:

"In Flanders Fields"

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

