

# MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

December 2023 Volume: 14 Issue 11



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

As President of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter I want to wish all MSVC members and their families Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Season's Greetings, and a most Happy New Year.

As we move closer to the end of the year, we look at the blessings we have for this holiday season and remember those service personnel that are deployed away from their families and loved ones. We also remember with gratitude those that fought during our many wars; Revolutionary War, Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War and the Gulf War, throughout the holiday seasons. They are all but forgotten, except by their families and those of us that knew them. They serve so we may be protected and free especially during these times of holidays and family gatherings..

During this time of turmoil in Israel and the Middle East, we should recall the common bond and heritage we share with the people of Israel, and hope that peace will come to the Holy Land. Those misguided Americans that promote anti-Semitism and genocide and protest against Israel, the true victims, in support Hamas and the Palestinians that engage in terrorism and aggression, will only prolong the suffering and war. With America's strength, resolve and support, Israel will achieve success on the battlefield that will lead to peace in the Holy Land; and prevent a wider regional war that may engulf the United States.

The Chapter elected new Board of Directors at the 17 November meeting. Some were reelected, several were elected to new positions and one is a first time Board member. The Board welcomes new member MAJ Joe Mersol. Thanks for stepping up to the challenge.

### MSVC Spreads Christmas Cheer

By David J. DiTallo

With Halloween candy gone and Thanksgiving turkey leftovers in the rear view mirror, Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter - Military Officers Association of America had one final item to tick off for the calendar year - meet for dinner and raise money for a local veterans charity.

At the chapter's annual Christmas Dinner and Charity Fundraiser, thirty members and guests **raised \$1000 for Veterans Outreach**, a local 501(C)(3) charitable organization, while enjoying a buffet spread at A La Cart Catering.

**That is more than double what the chapter raised each of the last two years!**

**Veterans Outreach recently moved to a new location at 17 Colonial Drive in Youngstown, Ohio, where they now have space for clothing, furniture, food, and other donations.** The facility is open Monday through Wednesday and Saturdays from 10am to 5pm and can be reached at 330-755-5792. More information is available at: <https://veteransoutreach.org/>.

In addition to Veterans Outreach, **MSVC raised a further \$500 from a special raffle devoted to the chapter's Cadet Fund.** The Cadet Fund provides MOAA JROTC and ROTC medals and certificates to local high school and college students and helps fund the chapter's annual Cadet Night Dinner in April. **Dennis Gartland** was the raffle winner, taking home a holiday gift basket. The evening could not have been a success without the tireless planning of **Treasurer Florence Hosler**, fundraiser auctioneers **President Rod Hosler** and **Beth Minton**, and the staff at A La Cart Catering.

Please mark your calendars for the chapter's **January 19 Lunch Meeting**, when our guest will be Ohio National Guard Lieutenant Colonel and chapter member Shaun Robinson for a presentation on nearby Camp Garfield. For those of use over the age of 50, that is the "old" Ravenna Arsenal!

MSVC-MOAA  
PO Box 5342  
Poland, OH 44514

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

## Legislative Contacts:

**MOAA Legislative Update** [moaa.org/takeaction](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.fetterman.senate.gov/)

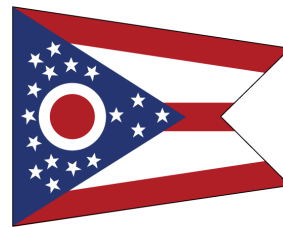
**Representative Mike Kelly (R)**  
U.S. Congressional PA District 16  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC  
(202) 225-5406  
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146  
Phone: (724) 342-7170 [www.kelly.house.gov](http://www.kelly.house.gov)

## Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison, Member at Large

Understanding the Unseen Costs of a Continuing Resolution

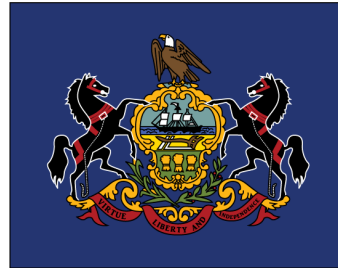
Kevin Lilley in his 28 NOV, 2023 news article noted the hidden consequences of a continuing resolution (CR) on military funding and operations. This Article sheds light on the challenges posed by short-term budget extensions, emphasizing the negative impact on military readiness, modernization efforts, and overall stability. The piece provides valuable insights into the complexities of funding uncertainties and advocates for the importance of timely, stable budget allocations to ensure the military's preparedness and effectiveness. We encourage you to reach out to your senators and House members that the status quo of costly CRs isn't acceptable – not when so much needs done to maintain the strength of the all-volunteer force. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/understanding-the-unseen-costs-of-a-continuing-resolution/>

## 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.

## MSVC Board Members:

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

**1st Vice President:** Florence Hosler, LT, USN,  
(Fmr) [hoslerfm@zoominternet.net](mailto:hoslerfm@zoominternet.net) 330-788-3270

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

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

**Treasurer:** Bruce Bille, LT, USN, (Fmr)  
[bbille.usna.82@gmail.com](mailto:bbille.usna.82@gmail.com) 330 219-2473

## Members at Large:

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

Joseph Mersol, Maj, USA, (Ret.)  
Legislative Liaison  
[jmersol@gmail.com](mailto:jmersol@gmail.com) , 330 565-3328

Stephen J. Motika, MAJ, USA, (Ret.)  
Student Affairs Liaison  
[smm6162@aol.com](mailto:smm6162@aol.com) 330-647-1704

Ralph DeLucia, CPT, USA, (Fmr)  
YARS Base Community Council Liaison  
[rok31A@msn.com](mailto:rok31A@msn.com) 330-727-9205

**Historian:** Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)  
[gartlanddj2@yahoo.com](mailto:gartlanddj2@yahoo.com) (330) 637-4843

**Chaplain:** Ralph Minton, LTC, USAF, (Ret.)  
[mintonrandb1@gmail.com](mailto:mintonrandb1@gmail.com)

## MSVC DONATION TO THE YOUNGATOWN STSTE UNIVERSITY (YSU) VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

The MSVC again donated **\$300** worth of **Giant Eagle Gift Cards** to the **YSU Veterans Resource Center** on 22 November; to help out student veterans at YSU that are in need of groceries or gas during the holiday seasons. Accepting the gift cards is Major (Retired) and MSVC member Rick Williams, Executive Director of the Veterans Resource Center. Rick indicated, "these cards are most welcomed, especially during these times of high inflation."



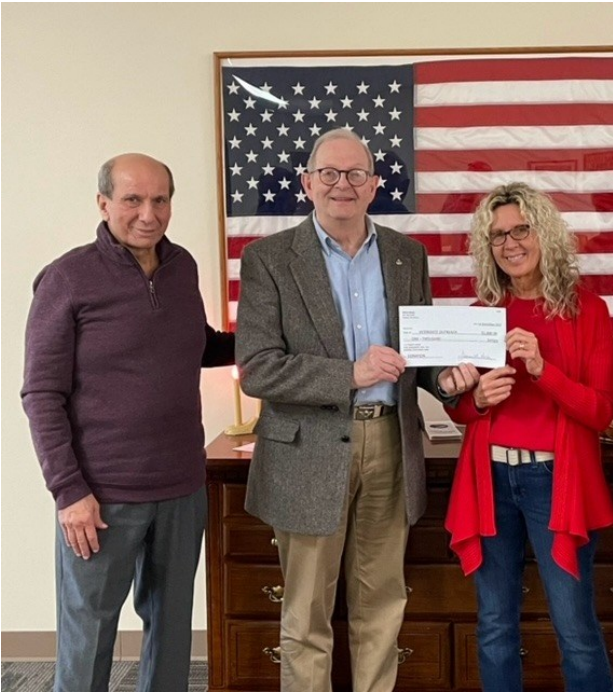
MSVC President Rod Hosler and Executive Director of the Veteran's Resource Center Rick Williams

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## MSVC DONATION TO THE VETERANS' OUT-REACH OF YOUNGATOWN

As indicated earlier, MSVC and ROA Chapter 42 donated the proceeds of our annual Christmas Party and Fund Raiser. This year we raised **\$1,000.00** from the auction which was double what was raised last year and Florence and Rod Hosler presented a \$1,000.00 check to **Veterans' Out-Reach** in Liberty. Accepting the MSVC donation were Mrs. Teri Ely, Executive Director and Mr. Robert Julian, Vice President of Veterans' Out-Reach. Veterans' Out-Reach is a local charitable organization that provides financial and material assistance to Veterans and their families that may fall on hard times. Veterans' Outreach recently moved into a new facility at 17 Colonial Avenue in Liberty, and Florence and Rod were given a tour. Besides administrative offices; the facility also included a large thrift store, food pantry, and plenty of storage space. Our 15 March meeting will present a program about Veterans' Outreach given by Mrs. Teri Ely the Executive Director.



Robert Julian, Rod Hosler and Teri Ely

Consider donating items to the thrift shop as well as seeing what they have to offer. The new facility is bright and spacious.

MSVC will consider food and needed item drives over the next year to donate to their pantry.

## Membership Corner - Resolutions for 2023 Business Meeting

By David J. Di Tallo

The MSVC-MOAA Board of Directors recently approved three resolutions for consideration and approval at the upcoming 2023 Business Meeting.

First, the Board recommends keeping annual dues for 2024 at twenty dollars. This is an annual requirement in our chapter Bylaws.

Next, the Board recommends including U.S. Space Force and streamlining our definition of Regular chapter membership to align with MOAA.

Finally, the Board recommends new, Regular chapter members be automatically enrolled in MOAA as Basic (no-cost) members. Our current chapter bylaws encourage, but do not require, Regular members to join MOAA.

A complete list of the resolutions with additional information will be available at the August 17 Dinner Meeting and will be sent electronically to all chapter members.

Please contact me at [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com) or at (703) 859-

## 17 NOVEMBER LUNCH MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter met on Friday, 17 November at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The meeting included the Chapter's annual business meeting where a written wrap-up of Chapter activities and events for the past year was provided; changes to the Chapter By-Laws were voted on and the election of new officers for Board of Directors for 2024-2026 took place. The meeting program was presented by Mr. Eric Weeden about his experiences as an Air Traffic Controller in Buffalo, NY and Cleveland, OH. Very interesting program about what Air Traffic Controllers do to keep our sky's safe and even an occasional UFO sightings. 30 members and guests were in attendance.



## BELATED NOTICE OF THE OF DEATH OF MAJOR PETE MIHAI

Major Peter Mihai, U.S. Army, Retired, passed away at age 92, on 13 September 2023. Peter was born 17 September 1930 in Dearborn, MI. He proudly served nearly 25 years, since before the Korean War and during the Vietnam War as a Field Artillery officer. He was an active member of the Military Officers Association of America and was past president of the both the Ohio Western Reserve and Mahoning-Shenango Valley Chapters. organizations. Pete is survived by his wife Ilona Mihai. He is buried at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

**UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR  
2024**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS. SO YOU DON'T MISS AN  
EVENT OR MEETING.**

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, 249 Lisbon Street, Canfield.  
Lunch Meetings (October – March): Gather at 11:30 AM, Lunch at 12:00/Noon.  
Dinner Meetings (April – September): Gather at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.  
Board Meetings, Veterans Service Commission (VSC), 10:00 AM - 12:00/Noon, Youngstown.

JAN 04 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
JAN 19 – Lunch Meeting. Program: Camp Garfield, LTC Shaun Robinson.

FEB 01 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
FEB 16 – Lunch Meeting, program: TBD.

MAR 07 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
MAR 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: Veterans' Outreach, Mrs. Teri Ely, Executive Director.

APR 04 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
APR 07 – Vietnam Veterans Laying of the Roses, Downtown Youngstown, 1:00-2:00 PM.  
APR 18 – ROTC/JROTC/Commissionee's Recognition Dinner, 6:00 PM.

MAY 02 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
MAY 16 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBD  
MAY 17 – Decoration of Graves, Calvary Cemetery, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Youngstown.  
MAY 27 – MEMORIAL DAY Ceremony, Oak Hill Cemetery, 8:30 AM, Youngstown,

JUN 06 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
JUN 20 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, program: TBD

JUL 03 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC. (**DATE CHANGE DUE TO HOLIDAY**)  
JUL 18 – Picnic Meeting at Vienna Fish and Game Club, 4:30 - 7:00 PM, Vienna, OH,

AUG 15 – Dinner Meeting (Steak Fry and Corn Roast), program, TBD.  
AUG 16 – D-Day Conneaut, Free bus transportation & lunch, RSVP (330-740-2450) required.

SEPT 05 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC, Youngstown.  
SEPT 19 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBA.

OCT 03 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.  
OCT 18 – Lunch Meeting, program: TBA.  
OCT 31 – MSVC Board Meeting (**For November**), VSC.



Pat Green

The holiday season is a time of joy. It's a time of get-togethers with family and friends. But it also can be the perfect storm of events and emotions. For those suffering the loss of a spouse, it might be overwhelming and a time of dread.

Some have a fear of going to a party alone, of becoming emotional, or being alone and lonely on days that used to hold so many happy memories. Others worry the weight of carrying their grief is visible and contagious. A few are trying to decide how much jolliness is appropriate, what lessons about grief and coping they are teaching their children and grandchildren, and whether the absence of decor and tradition signal the sadness and depression that surrounds us.

All these considerations can weigh one down, and the numbness sets in. Fortunately, there are some coping skills that work.

Find your comfort zone. Initially, you might feel you want to cocoon, and be antisocial. For most of us, crying is necessary. A lot of crying is best done privately. You also need time to focus on *your health and happiness*. *Maybe you sit out the holidays. Eventually though, you must ...*

Embrace change. After a necessary (your time frame) grieving period, accept the reality that no holiday will be the same again, and adjust.

Instead of the big holiday dinner at your house, take the family out. If it's affordable, rent a cabin in the woods or a house at the beach. Assign dishes for each guest to bring. Announce that your only responsibility is the turkey, gravy, and dressing. Relax. Do things simply.

If you and your spouse hosted an annual holiday cocktail party, and you feel up to entertaining, do something different. Alcohol is a depressant, and tears are harder to hold back if you've been drinking. Have a cookie-sharing party or a neighborhood open house.

Decorate, but keep it simple. Guests will enjoy the party whether your tree is 5 feet or 15 feet tall. A wreath trimmed with a red ribbon on the front door might be all you have the energy for, and it's enough!

Ask the leadership of your church, temple, or mosque for suggestions for changes in rites or religious ceremonies. Possibly a family member can assume the role your spouse held in presiding over a customary event.

If you are truly alone, find your solace and your footing in helping others. This will be a difficult time, but good times will follow. Many of us have been in your shoes. As you now know, that is why we are called "surviving spouses."

*Pat Green is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council. She has been active and engaged member of MOAA for 15 years, serving in many leadership roles.*