

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



March 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

We're three months into the year and the chapter continues to thrive and make a difference in the community. Nine MSVC members: Carl Nunziato, Jim Fairbanks, Irv Mauer, Dave Long, Rod and Florence Hosler, Harold Hutzen, John Marino and Rick Williams, who are also members of the YSU ROTC Alumni recently met and dined with the new YSU President and MOAA member Bill Johnson and his wife Leann at the president's residence on campus. After dinner we responded to concerns and questions from President Johnson regarding improving the benefits of veterans attending YSU and how to expand the YSU brand at military installations to make YSU more accessible to all. Very good session with many recommendations that President Johnson will follow up on. President Johnson will be the keynote speaker at the MSVC ROTC Recognition Dinner outstanding Junior Army on 18 April.



Looking ahead to our April dinner meeting on 18 April, we will be recognizing an outstanding YSU Army ROTC cadet and soon to be commissioned second lieutenants; and the outstanding Youngstown's East High School Army JROTC cadet and Austintown's Fitch High School Air Force JROTC programs. This recognition and dinner is our premiere program and hope all MSVC members attend this noteworthy event. Additionally, please consider sponsoring a cadet.

MSVC FEBRUARY/ MARCH LUNCH MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter conducted its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 16 February at 12:00/Noon at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The program was the YSU Carl Nunziato Veterans Resource Center presented by MAJ (Ret.) Rick Williams, Executive Director and MSVC member. It was a great presentation and Rick talked about the mission, support and need of the Veterans Resource Center. The chapter had 30 members and guests present. Thank you all for your support.

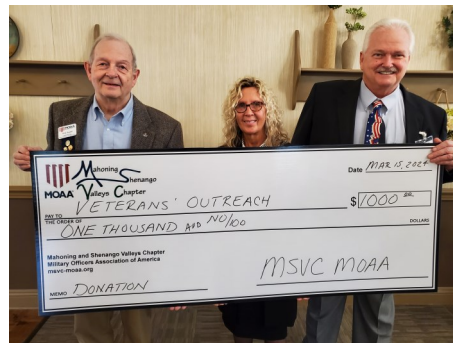


Photo by D. DiTallo

MSVC President Rod Hosler, Mrs. Teri Ely and Mr. John Ely

The Chapter conducted its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 15 March The meeting program was presented by the Veterans Outreach of Youngstown, Mrs. Teri Ely, Executive Director. Veterans Outreach recently moved to a new facility which gives them so much more space in a bright and accessible building. Veterans Outreach is known for "cutting the red tape" when assisting veterans. They are able to offer immediate aid in most cases and help any and all veterans. Do check out the new facility and the resale shop they run, great bargains that support a great program!

Our Christmas fundraiser chose Veterans Outreach and we donated \$1000 to them.

Our Treasurer Bruce Bill arranged for a BIG CHECK for the event from Mark's Signs in Cortland which Mr. Mark Brown donated to the chapter.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

In light of recent events in the news, it's become increasingly clear that our military community faces significant quality of life challenges. These issues range from housing and compensation inadequacies to limited access to medical and behavioral care, childcare shortages, and spouse employment difficulties. As retirees who've dedicated years to service, understanding and advocating for improvements in these areas are crucial. Our collective voice can support legislative efforts aimed at enhancing the living conditions and benefits for active and retired servicemembers alike. For a deeper dive into these concerns and MOAA's advocacy, I encourage you to visit the [MOAA website](#) for more information.



MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The newest member of the MSVC Board of Director is MAJ Joseph M. (Joe) Mersol, USA, Retired. Joe also serves as the chapter's Legislative Liaison officer. Joe is a John Carrol Graduate and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster. After Quartermaster Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, VA, he attended Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. He served at Fort Ord, California with the 7th Infantry Division. After active duty, he served in the Army reserve and retired as a Major. A resident of New Middletown, Ohio he is a successful Financial Adviser with offices in Poland. While attending the 2023 September Ohio Council of Chapter's convention, he volunteered to assist in some of the administrative duties, and enjoyed helping out so much he decided to get more involved in the business of the chapter. Stepping forward he was elected to serve on the chapter's board of directors. Thanks Joe for your service and leadership.



Photo courtesy of Mersol Financial Solutions, LLC

MSVC Board Members:

President: Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)
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1st Vice President: Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)
Program Chair
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2nd Vice President: Florence M. Hosler, LT, USNR,
(Fmr) Membership Chair
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Secretary: Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)
alcalind@zoominternet.net 330-757-0336

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

Members at Large:

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colduzz@zoominternet.net 330-792-7068

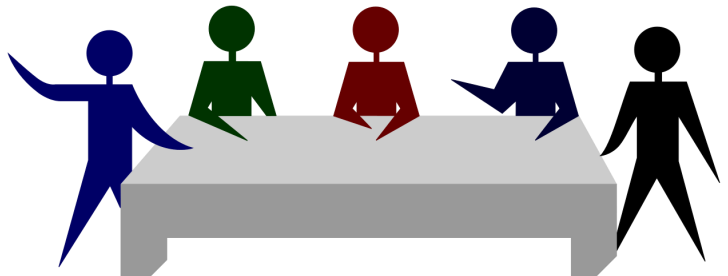
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YARS Base Community Council Liaison
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Historian: Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
gartlanddj2@yahoo.com (330) 637-4843

Chaplain: Ralph Minton



All members are welcome at any board meeting, come see where the magic happens!!

MOAA Legislative Update

moaa.orgtakeaction

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
Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
(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
(202)224-3353 www.vance.senate.gov
240 East 9th Street, Room 3061
Cleveland, OH 44199

Representative David P. Joyce (R)
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2065 Rayburn House Office Building
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(202) 225-5731 www.joyce.house.gov
8500 Station Street
Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 352-3939

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D) U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(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
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(202) 225-5406 or
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
(724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio Ohio Legislature

Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Legislature

COMMENTARY: IS OUR GOVERNMENT DESTROYING THE COUNTRY IT IS SUPPOSE TO SUPPORT?

Amazing as it seems, the government is destroying the country it was chartered to protect and administer. True. The government, both executive and legislative branches are bankrupting the country, spending the hard earned dollars of its citizens. Trillions of dollars in debt and counting. Why. To get votes and retain power. The ONLY part of the U.S. Constitution that directs spending is Article I, Section 8 that directs; To raise and support Armies....; To provide and maintain a Navy.... No other spending is identified. Not for education, commerce, justice department, aid to foreign countries, health and human services, etc. and even congressional pay. Spending to spend, is driving the United States deeper and deeper into debt. We collect billions in taxes every day, yet our spending exceeds our income. If we as citizens spent like the government, we would be in jail with a '0' credit rating. Yet the government continues to spend, and spend and spend.

When the collapse comes and it is coming, it will be the citizen tax payer that will pay and suffer, while the elite political/administrative class will skate through. But with this collapse will come turmoil, because the people will be upset that the Government did this to them. Unlike the Crash of 1929 caused by private 'financial institutions,' this collapse is caused by the government.

Our legislators must focus on the American citizen as their first priority. U.S. citizen have paid for the privilege by paying taxes. Paying for illegals at the sake of U.S. citizens is criminal. Just look at the facts, those that are not echoes by the left media. See how the average middle and lower class U.S. citizen fares today and what they are sacrificing while illegal immigrants are reaping the benefits? No matter how much we contact our legislators for improvements and relief, and how much they tell us 'what we want to hear,' they do not care. If they did, this excessive spending would stop, but it doesn't. Shame. "Hey buddy, can you spare me a dime."



Surviving Spouse Corner: Are Your Personal Documents Ready for an Emergency?

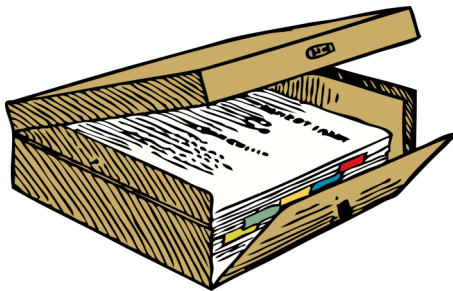
By: *Renée Brunelle Matthews*

Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, leaving individuals and families grappling with chaos and uncertainty. Whether it's a natural disaster like a hurricane or earthquake, a house fire, or a medical crisis, being prepared can make all the difference in navigating through the turmoil. One often-overlooked aspect of preparedness is having essential documents readily accessible for yourself or a trusted person.

It might sound simple, but having your important documents organized and easily accessible can significantly expedite critical decision-making during emergencies. Imagine being evacuated from your home due to an impending hurricane (yes, that has happened to me), and in the rush to leave, you forget to grab essential documents like identification, insurance policies, or medical records. Having these documents readily available in a designated "important documents kit" ensures you have the necessary information on hand to prove your identity, access medical care, or file insurance claims promptly.

Also, having your documents prepared in advance can alleviate stress and anxiety during already tense situations. Emergencies are inherently chaotic, and the last thing you want to worry about is rummaging through drawers or files, searching for vital paperwork. By proactively organizing your documents and keeping them in a secure location, you can focus on prioritizing safety and addressing immediate needs rather than scrambling to gather paperwork under duress.

Another compelling reason to have your important documents ready for an emergency is to safeguard against loss or damage. Disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes can destroy physical documents stored in homes or offices. While some documents can be replaced, others, like birth certificates, passports, or irreplaceable family heirlooms, might be lost forever.



Renée Brunelle Matthews is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and co-founder of Pathfinders Downsizing Solutions.

MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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.

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.

APP 21 – VSC Veterans Recognition Dinner, 2:00-4:00, Legion Post 737, Lake Milton. RSVP needed; 330740-2450

MAY 02 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.

MAY 16 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBD

MAY 18 – 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 19 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBA.

OCT 18 – Lunch Meeting, program: Taking care of business, MAJ Joe Mersol.

NOV 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: World War I Artifacts, Steve Motika and Al Lind.

DEC 14 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, (1:00-4:00 PM)

The MOAA Insurance Plans logo features the acronym 'MOAA' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'INSURANCE PLANS' in a smaller font below it. To the left of the text are three vertical bars of varying heights. Below the logo is a blue banner with the text 'Standing with you at every stage.' in white. At the bottom of the banner, the phone number '1-800-247-2192' and the website 'www.moainsurance.com' are listed. A small number '93569' is visible in the bottom right corner of the banner.

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Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter

Membership Requirements

The membership in MSVC shall be composed of: men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. MSVC memberships are open to all eligible people.

Contact : msvc-moaa@gmail.com for more information or download the membership form here: <http://msvc-moaa.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/2021-MSVC-Member-Application.pdf>

PAYMENT OF MSVC-MOAA CHAPTER DUES

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC) dues of \$20.00 are due in January. Chapter dues are necessary for the operations of the chapter; funding speakers, insurance, IT, postage, printing, scholarships, etc. All MSVC chapter members need to pay their annual chapters dues (\$20.00) to the MSVC Treasurer at: MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH by March. Members who pay their chapter dues will receive a MSVC-MOAA chapter pen and 2024 membership card. Active or reserve duty members are exempt from paying chapter dues. Thanks for supporting the chapter.

BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM OR LIFE MEMBER:

MOAA National and Chapter membership is open to all Retired, Former, and Active Officers of the seven uniformed services and spouses can become Chapter members. Officers on active service (active or reserve duty) are exempt from paying chapter member dues.

Life membership allows members full access to all MOAA National 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. **Get full MOAA National benefits by becoming a Premium or Life Member.** Members can opt to pay their Life Membership through a monthly installment plan. **I strongly encourage all Basic members to upgrade their membership to become Premium or Life members.** As officers, make a commitment to MOAA and yourselves.

www.moaa.org/join or call 1-800-234-6622.

NEVER STOP SERVING.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Florence Hosler, 2nd VP & Membership chair

As of today, March 18, only 44% of members have renewed their MSVC membership.

Keep in mind that active duty, active Reserve or Guard members pay no chapter dues as well as Surviving Spouses.

I was hoping more people would have paid their membership by this date, so I will be sending out reminder cards to those of you who are forgetful. Unlike the folks who will install my new dishwasher I will give you a heads up before you have to re-apply for membership.

My dishwasher sat in the warehouse for 30 days waiting for my new floor to be installed. They sent it back to the supplier and THEN let me know, not a good day! It's the last item to complete the renovation (Rod hates hand washing dishes as the old DW is disconnected). Home Depot thinks I'm a wonderful customer, no ranting or raving, just heavy sighs and acceptance of the situation. Nice has paid off, HD has given me several free deliveries for my patience.

SO please pay your dues and if you have done so by the time the postcard arrives think of it as a free bookmark or phone note paper.

Otherwise, as I was wont to say as a child, "I can't like your face!" Thank you.



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.