

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



APRIL 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

The MSVC Chapter is beginning our Thursday evening dinner meetings this month.

We're kicking off our spring and summer schedule with our annual ROTC/JROTC Cadet Night Recognition Dinner set for Thursday, 18 April.

This is our premier event and hope to have maximum turnout. It is our way to recognize those ROTC and JROTC cadets for their outstanding performance in academic and military skills.

We'll be providing the MOAA Medal to cadets and insignia to those that have earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Well done to all awardees and commissionees and their instructors who have mentored their achievements as well as their families that provided support.

The keynote speaker is YSU President and MOAA member Bill Johnson. Please mark your calendars and I hope to see you at this significant event.



THURSDAY, 18 APRIL MOAA CADET NIGHT DINNER/ MEETING

The Chapter will conduct its first 2024 dinner meeting on Thursday, 18 April. Check in starts at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm, and the program at 7:15pm. We are expecting four cadets from YSU Army ROTC and four high school cadets, as well. YSU President and MOAA member, Bill Johnson, is our Keynote Speaker.

RSVP's are due by Monday, 15 April at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270. You may pay for you meal online at our chapter's secure website at msvc-moaa.org. Please be sure to let Rod and Florence Hosler know if you are bringing a guest so we can prepare them a name tag and welcome them during the program. If you would like to contribute to the Cadet Fund to help defray the cost of our guests' meals, you may do so in advance at our website or in person when you check in. If you are unable to attend, please consider supporting a cadet. Your attendance and participation are important in supporting this event, one of our top priority programs. Hope to see you there.

Please come and enjoy the

ICE CREAM BAR

MSVC-MOAA
PO Box 5342
Poland, OH 44514

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

The Major Richard Star Act is central to MOAA's advocacy efforts, aiming to correct the unfair practice of offsetting DoD retirement pay with VA disability compensation for combat-injured veterans. Specifically targeting those medically retired under Chapter 61 before completing 20 years of service, the legislation seeks to enable concurrent receipt, allowing over 50,300 affected veterans to receive full DoD and VA benefits without reduction. This move not only addresses financial injustices but also honors the sacrifices of veterans, urging members and the broader community to lobby for its passage.

MOAA's push for the Major Richard Star Act underscores a broader advocacy for equitable treatment of veterans, emphasizing the importance of eliminating the current offset between retirement and disability pay. By rallying support for the act, MOAA highlights the need for legislative action to rectify this longstanding issue, encouraging its members to engage with legislators. This advocacy reflects a commitment to ensuring that veterans receive the full scope of benefits earned through their service, advocating for changes that recognize their dedication and sacrifice. Go to <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/> to show your support.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MSVC member Bruce Bille has been a mainstay of the chapter since its inception. Bruce is a 1982 U.S. Naval Academy graduate and was a Surface Warfare officer. Bruce completed his military obligation in 1988 as a Lieutenant (O-3). He has served MSVC as the 1st Vice President, Treasurer and Webmaster. He concurrently serves the MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters as Webmaster. Bruce is a resident of Warren (Howland) since 1991 and has three grown boys; a mechanical design engineer (MS), a pharmacist (PhD), and a Lutheran minister in training. Besides his MOAA/MSVC activities he is the Vice President of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Cleveland Chapter since 2011 and served as the former Executive Director of USO of Northern Ohio. There isn't much we can accomplish without the talents of Bruce Bille.



MSVC Board Members:

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MOAA Legislative Update

moaa.orgtakeaction

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Senator John Fetterman (D) U.S. Senate
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STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio Ohio Legislature

Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Legislature

COMMENTARY: "E PLURIBUS UNUM," IS IT NO LONGER OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY?

"E pluribus unum," Latin for "Out of many, one" is a traditional motto of the United States. You will find it on the great seal of the United States, on all U.S. currency, and on some public buildings. In essence, it translates to everyone coming together to become one body. It means team work, all achieving the same end for the common good and common goal. For almost two-hundred and fifty years we have all pulled toward one common objective as our name indicates, the United States.

But it seems that is not the case today. Never since the 1860s and the Civil War have, we been so divided, and to what end. A weakened country divided into factions; racial groups, ethnic groups, social, educational and identity groups, sexual orientation, rewriting our national history and identity, professing antisemitism, un-American activities, etc. And again, to what end? Who is orchestrating this division? Who is involved in this division? What is the ultimate purpose of the division? Can we survive this division? All interesting questions and the answer is both complicated and simple. The culprits of this division know who they are. Many do not want to admit who the culprits are and their purpose because it is an indictment to the culpability of many who fail to acknowledge this division. Radical groups, politicians and the media, all working to pull apart the fabric of the country.

It boils down to politics, power, and the subjugating of the populus that are caught up in the division. "Divide and conquer or divide and rule." It is an old tactic that works and history is wrought with it. One national political party seems to continue to profess this tactic. Divide and conquer; professing victim status, racial groups, ethnic groups, social, educational and identity groups, etc., divide and conquer. Forget unity, national identity, and working for the common good. The tragedy is that many in the political elite continue to push his notion.

Recently in Dearborn, Michigan and crowd gathered to protest and proclaimed death to Israel (a democratic republic like the United States and an American ally), and "Death to America." Check it out. I am disgusted with this flagrant behavior that verge on treason. Yes, it is their Constitutional right to express that outlandish talk, but are these liberal radical ready to defend the same Constitution they damn as they shout "Death to America" as U.S. soldiers have pledged to do. I think not. To those, U.S. citizens and noncitizens, that express "Death to America," I say, "Delta is ready when you are," have a nice trip!

"E pluribus unum," all Americans for America.
Rod Hosler

These are personal observations of the author and are not representative of MOAA..
All members of MSVC may submit an editorial to this newsletter.

Surviving Spouse Corner: We Need Your Voice on Legislative Issues

By: Kathy Thorp

There is a quote from Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

This sums up the vital importance of each of us taking the time to contact our members of Congress to share our testimony and our personal stories on the current issues relating to surviving spouses as well as other veterans' and military family issues.

National MOAA advocates on the Hill monthly, and once a year, council and chapter leaders come to Washington, D.C., for Advocacy in Action, focusing on several key issues.

What can you do to be a part of this excitement of advocacy? You can get involved very easily, from the comfort of your home. Often due to where we live, our physical limitations, and our work and family schedule, it's nearly impossible to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers. The good news is MOAA has a valuable resource to make it easier for us to advocate throughout the year: the [Legislative Action Center](#).

In the action center, MOAA posts top issues with a description of each. You can pick and choose what affects you the most, or you can select all the issues that are listed. Once you register for the Legislative Action Center, you can send a pre-formatted letter to your representative and senators on the issue. All you need to do is either add your personal story or just add your signature. Once it's completed, hit the send button, and the letter is automatically sent to your lawmakers.

Try it out today — it only takes five minutes. Every call, every email, and every visit to Congress helps to bring to the forefront issues affecting surviving spouses, veterans, and military families. The more our voices are heard, we CAN make a difference!



Capt. Kathy Thorp, USN (Ret), is a member of MOAA's Board of Directors as well as [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#).

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 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.

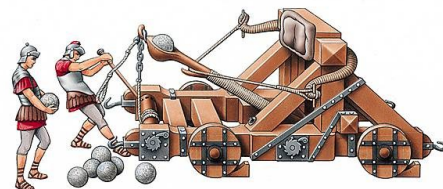
DEC 14 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, (1:00-4:00 PM)

Cum catapultae proscriptae erunt tum soli proscript catapultas habebunt.

When catapults are outlawed, only outlaws will have catapults

Catapultam habeo. Nisi pecuniam omnem mihi dabis, ad caput tuum saxum immane mittam.

I have a catapult. Give me all the money, or I will fling an enormous rock at your head



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

Why did I join MOAA?? First off to shut Rod up, he was pestering me to join for several years, but I saw MOAA as a night out for him and a quiet time for me, but I gave in and attended a few Board meetings with him. A slippery slope indeed.

Next thing I know I'm a Life Member and on the MSVC Board. I found I enjoyed the conversations and deliberations on chapter workings, and then I did more research into MOAA and the advocacy they do for service members.

Taking care of the troops has always been important to me, as a junior officer I was the Division Officer for all the students who went through the courses we offered in Programmer Training FCTC Dam Neck, VA. It was a challenge to assist sailors from all over the fleet and the world. We had JDF officers as well as Australian navy officers and enlisted.

Family and pay problems cropped up all the time and I can only hope I was helpful. Now I have the opportunity to assist far more service members.

I know as a former service member I have few benefits but as the spouse of a retired member I enjoy far more, that isn't what motivates me. The military is my family and I want to see it prosper and grow. I want my country to be safe as well which it won't be if the guardians of that safety are treated as second class citizens while they make sacrifices for everyone else. So all of us are able to NEVER STOP SERVING.



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.