

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SEPTEMBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

We are now entering the last eight weeks or so of the election cycle until the national general election. If you are like me, you are tired of the political ads that have inundated the media. Who do you believe, what is the truth, and who is the best candidate to lead our country? These are difficult questions.

MOAA and its chapter affiliates remain politically neutral in this endeavor and rightly so. But what we can say and do is to pay attention to the issues and candidates. Evaluate the candidates and political parties on their past political stances and policies; and potential future policies. A well informed electorate is critical for the democratic republic to succeed.

What is important, is to educate yourself on the candidates; their stand on boarder security, national defense, crime, the economy, inflation, energy independence, oil production, national debt, foreign policy, adhering to the Constitution and our freedoms, supporting our allies and Israel, the Afghanistan pullout, and other national policies and the restoration of American values. Look at the candidate's track record on these issues. The bottom line is who is going to represent you, your values and the country. That should weigh the most in your decision. Personality should never be considered, but the policies that will affect you, and will the candidate fight for you and the best interest of the country. What is our future?

Congress is now back in session. Will they take this time to pass legislation to improve the condition of Americas military? The culprits in the legislative efforts are the DOD and the Pentagon. Congress consistently requires tax payer "bill payers" to offset any new legislation. This is an easy fix. There is always that which can be given up.

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AUGUST DINNER MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter hosted its monthly dinner meeting on Thursday, 15 August at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. This was our annual Steak Fry and Corn Roast dinner. Our program presenter was Mr. Timothy ("Tim") Furin, and he talked about the 2005 Iraqi Constitutional Referendum and National Elections. Tim is a retired Army LTC. It was interesting to learn the Iraqi Constitution is modeled after the Egyptian Constitution and not the U.S. Constitution. The topic was very fascinating and we learned about this extensive process. Mr. Furin had a number of documents used during the voting process that were very interesting, unfortunately none of us read Arabic! The chapter had 32 members and guests present. Thank you all for your support.



Tim Furin

Tim Furin & Rod Hosler



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

As a member of MSVC-MOAA, it is crucial to understand the importance of sustained advocacy efforts and the impact they can have on our legislative priorities. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) emphasizes that playing the "long game" in advocacy is essential for achieving meaningful, lasting change. This approach requires persistence, strategic engagement, and continuous communication with lawmakers to ensure our concerns are addressed in legislative processes.

Key Advocacy Issues:

Junior Enlisted Pay Raise: Advocating for a pay raise for junior enlisted service members to ensure they are compensated fairly for their service, which is vital for maintaining morale and financial stability within the ranks.

Restoring Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): The need to restore full BAH to cover 100% of housing costs, as the current reduced rates are placing unnecessary financial strain on military families.

Concurrent Receipt Provisions: Urging the inclusion of critical concurrent receipt provisions in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to address the unjust offset of military retirement pay for those who also receive VA disability compensation.

Summer Advocacy in Action:

With the congressional summer recess underway, we encourage all members to take advantage of this period to reach out to their lawmakers. Your active participation is vital, whether you've been involved in advocacy efforts before or are considering it for the first time.

Action Steps:

Contact Your Lawmakers: Urge them to support the inclusion of the junior enlisted pay raise, restored BAH, and concurrent receipt provisions in the final version of the FY 2025 NDAA.

Where to Go for More Information: Visit the MOAA website at MOAA Advocacy to find additional resources and guidance on how to effectively communicate with your legislators.

Your continued efforts and dedication to these issues can make a significant difference in the lives of our service members and their families. Let's ensure our voices are heard during this critical time.

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Legislative update cont.

Candidates on Ohio and Pennsylvania Ballots

The major candidates appearing on the Ohio and Pennsylvania ballots for the 2024 presidential election are:

- Kamala Harris (Democrat)
- Donald Trump (Republican)
- Chase Oliver (Libertarian)

MOAA Legislative Update

moaa.orgtakeaction

1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D) The White House
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Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) U.S. Senate
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Senator James D. (J.D.) Vance (R) U.S. Senate
B40-C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
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PENNSYLVANIA

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393 Russell Senate Office Building
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(202) 224-6324 www.casey.senate.gov

Senator John Fetterman (D) U.S. Senate
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Representative Mike Kelly (R)
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33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
(724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio Ohio Legislature

Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Legislature

Presidents message cont.

But Congress must also be prepared to give up something in order to support MOAA's legislative priorities. Pay for the important things by reducing or eliminating spending: stop aid to non-allied countries, eliminate nonessential research funding, reducing government funding of some governmental departments, etc. Moving funds to support essential military personnel issues is easy. Just do it.

Editorials 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.

MSVC Welcomes New Member - Robert ("Bob") Allen By David J. Di Tallo

Our chapter continues to add new members this year, among them Robert ("Bob") Allen, of Berlin Center, Ohio. Bob and his wife, Bernadette, attended last April's Cadet Night Dinner.

Growing up in Parma, OH, Bob graduated from Valley Forge High School in 1969 and attended Lorain County Community College for two years before joining the U.S. Navy. During his four year enlistment, Bob deployed twice to Vietnam aboard the aircraft carrier USS HANCOCK (CVA-19) as an A-4 SKYHAWK Aviation Electrician.

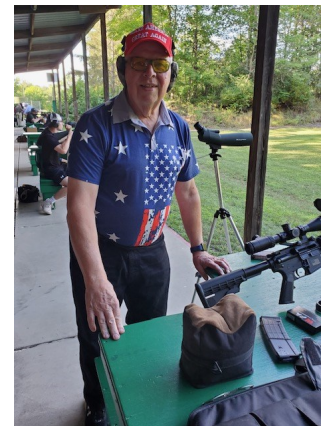
After his active naval service and a short period in the Navy Reserves, Bob joined the Ohio National Guard and was commissioned via Officers Candidate School. He rose to command a Maintenance Company based at the former Ravenna Arsenal (now Camp James A. Garfield). During that period, Bob's half-strength company was selected over active duty Army units to provide road maintenance for 101st Airborne units traveling from Fort Campbell, KY to Jacksonville, FL for deployment in Operation DESERT SHIELD.

Bob retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Major and also from a career with General Electric in Ravenna. In his spare time, Bob was most recently a volunteer driver for the Western Reserve Schools, and he enjoys playing golf.

Welcome aboard, Bob, and ahoy, matey!

Bob enjoying the July picnic and shoot

Photo by Dave DiTallo



Surviving Spouse Corner:

Florence Hosler, Surviving Spouse Liason

Transitioning Into Medicare and TRICARE For Life

Transitioning to new medical coverage when reaching age 65 can seem like a daunting task. MOAA has created a publication and included a checklist to help you prepare for, transition into, and understand TRICARE For Life and Medicare with confidence and ease. For our PREMIUM and LIFE Members **benefits counseling** with MOAA staff experts will assist in troubleshooting questions specific to your situation.

This publication guides you through eligibility, costs, pharmacy, using other health insurance, coverage overseas, and more.

PREMIUM and LIFE MOAA Member Price: Login to access your **FREE** copy ([download](#) or have a copy mailed). Note: Limits apply to number of physical copies.

We also have a downloaded copy I can send if you do not have access.

SEPTEMBER MOAA-MSVC DINNER MEETING NOTICE – THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

The Chapter is hosting its monthly dinner meeting on Thursday, 19 September at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Our program presenter is Austintown Fitch HS Air Force JROTC Cadet Xoijer Lewis who will talk about his experience at the Air Force JROTC Flight Academy. Check-in starts at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:00. Dinner cost is \$20.00 and you may pay for you meal at the door. **RSVPs** not later than **Monday, 16 September**, at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270, and please let us know if you are bringing a guest. Please remember that we pay for all meals ordered and if you reserve a meal and do not attend, you are responsible for the cost of that meal. **MARK YOUR CALLENDAR NOW.** Hope to see you there.



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.

SEPT 19 – Dinner Meeting, program: Austintown-Fitch Jrotc Cadet Xoijer Lewis will speak .

OCT 03 – Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon, 11:30 AM -1:00 PM, Maronite Center, 1555 South Maridian Rd. Youngstown, RSVP-1 October, 330-470-2450.

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, (11:30-4:00 PM) Christmas Concert with the Park Avenue Brass (quintet) before the lunch!!

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

- 1 September 1939 - Germany invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.
- 11 September 2001 Attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the heroes of Flight 93. Never Forget
- 2 September 1945 - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) and the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
- 2 September 1864 - Atlanta was captured by GEN William T. Sherman's Union Army during the American Civil War.
- 15-17 September 1814 - U.S. victory over the British at the Battles of Fort Erie, Canada, during the War of 1812.
- 17 September 1862 - Union victory at the Battle of Antietam, MD.
- 17-25 September 1944 - Operation Market Garden, airborne and ground invention of the Netherlands.
- 18 September 1947 - U.S. Air Force established as a separate military service.
- 18-20 September 1863 - Confederate victory at the Battle of Chickamauga, GA.
- 26 September-11 November 1918 - World War I Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France.
- 22 September 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.
- 30 September 1949 - The Ber-



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>



[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

MOAA LIFE Membership is the most elite membership category. As a MOAA LIFE Member, you'll receive all of MOAA's PREMIUM benefits - plus more - for life. Additional benefits include spouse protection and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

MOAA PREMIUM Membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Florence Hosler, 2nd VP & Membership chair

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter has closed its 2024 season in accordance with our Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. Those members that have not renewed their chapter membership by now have been dropped from our rolls. If you have discovered that you have not renewed your chapter dues, you may resubmit your request for membership by attending a meeting or sending a membership application (found at our chapter website, msvcmoaa.org along with \$20.00 membership dues to MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH 44514.

Our 2025 Membership Campaign will start next January through March, you may pay next years dues at anytime now. Just note that they are for 2025.

You may contact me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or at (330) 788-3270 if you have any questions.

MOAA Membership Benefits



[From Military Officer Magazine: Polish Your Estate Plan](#)

Your estate plan helps you control the future. It's your opportunity to decide who inherits your assets, who takes care of any dependent children, and who can help if you're unable to make financial or health care decisions for yourself. You might have worked with a legal assistance office on base to create a will and power of attorney documents before deploying earlier in your career, but as you get older and accumulate more assets — and your needs and goals change — it's important to reassess your estate plan.

This is a topic our own Joe Mersol will be discussing in October. Be prepared!

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Covering a variety of topics, [MOAA's experts](#) provide a wealth of information to help you navigate life during and after service. Explore our topic areas to find the answers you're looking for.

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